

*Hafa Adai!*

San Nicolas-Manglona is the new CUC board chair. **PAGE 2**  
Gas prices continue to roll back as year ends. **PAGE 3**

75¢

# Saipan Tribune



## Samaritan's Purse nabs award for rescue of big cats

» **CEO Franklin Graham coordinated efforts to help transport lion and tiger from typhoon-ravaged roadside zoo to Colorado sanctuary**

BOONE, N.C.—A Compassionate Action Award is on its way from PETA to Samaritan's Purse, the North Carolina-based evangelical charity led by Franklin Graham, in honor of the group's assistance in transferring a lion and a tiger from the Pacific island

**See SAMARITAN on Page 4**

International Christian relief agency Samaritan's Purse unloads relief goods from their DC-8 cargo aircraft at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport in November. The North Carolina-based organization airlifted emergency shelter materials, household water filtration units, solar lights, and medical supplies aboard the aircraft to help Saipan and Tinian recover from Super Typhoon Yutu's devastation.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

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# Study: Yutu rivaled Karen

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**  
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REPORTER

**A** study on Super Typhoon Yutu had to reach back 56 years ago just to find something to compare it with.

A joint study done by the National Weather Service-Guam and the University of Guam concluded that Super Typhoon

Yutu came extremely close in magnitude and intensity to Guam's Super Typhoon Karen, which left 95 percent of Guam in ruins back in 1962.

According to a joint statement from the National Weather Service in Guam and the University of Guam, Chip Guard of NWS and Dr. Mark Lander of UOG did an assessment on the southern one-third of Saipan on Nov. 13, a similar assessment on Tinian on Nov. 14, and the final assessment for the northern two-thirds of Saipan on Nov. 15 to determine the scope of damage and the intensity

**See STUDY on Page 4**

## CUC: 61 pct. on Saipan with power

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
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REPORTER

As of Tuesday, 61 percent of customers now have electric power on

Saipan, according to Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Gary P. Camacho.

In his presentation during yesterday's meeting, he said:

**See CUC on Page 4**

## 'Economy to dip after typhoons'

By **JON PEREZ**  
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REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres expects the destruction wrought by two typhoons—Typhoon Mangkhut and Super Typhoon Yutu—in the latter half of the year to affect the local economy's numbers when the U.S. Department of Commerce's Bureau of Economic Analysis releases its report for 2018 next year. He is confident, however, in a quick rebound.

"Obviously, we're going to see a rebound," he said.

**See ECONOMY on Page 4**

» **Torres confident of rebound**



## NOTICE

There will be no issue of *Saipan Tribune* on Dec. 25/26, 2018 and Jan. 1/2, 2018.

*Happy Holidays!*

## INSIDE



### WORLD

President Vladimir Putin rejects the U.S. claim that Russia has developed a new missile.

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### FOCUS

When you're an activist looking for a way to convey a complex message, you need a hook.

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### LIFE & STYLE

With 'Bumblebee,' John Cena finally finds his stride in Hollywood.

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# Local

## San Nicolas-Manglona is the new CUC board chair

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board of directors elected Miranda San Nicolas-Manglona yesterday as the new board chairperson.

Board member Jovita Paulino nominated San Nicolas-Manglona as the board's new chair at the CUC board's meeting at the Commonwealth Development Authority conference room.

The board unanimously approved the selection of San Nicolas-Manglona, who is representing Rota.

Weston Deleon Guerrero, who has served as board chair since February, was elected vice chairman. He also chairs

the operations committee.

Paulino was chosen secretary. She also chairs the personnel committee.

Matthew Holley is the board's treasurer. He has no committee yet.

As a KODEP Ogomoro-Uludong, who is representing the Commonwealth Development Authority on the board, chairs the board's finance committee.

CUC's board has seven members; five sets a quorum.

San Nicolas-Manglona said the board is excited to move forward with all CUC projects.

"Right now, we are dealing with restoration. So, this is our

main priority at this time—to try to get that on process so we can move forward with our projects," she said.

San Nicolas-Manglona used to work under the administrative section of the Department of Labor. Gov. Ralph DLG Torres appointed her to the CUC board last year.

With the various expertise of board members, they can work together and share ideas and experiences, she said.

"We would try to work with our community and, again, transparency is our major mission. We want to be transparent to the community. We want

to get their trust," she said.

She said the board is open to recommendations and ideas from the public.

Aside from two power engines that CUC is preparing to purchase, CUC has other projects of great importance, she said.

She praised the leadership of executive director Gary P. Camacho, saying that CUC has been moving forward with the restoration after Super Typhoon Yutu, at a much faster rate compared to the time after Super Typhoon Soudelor.

"I think they have been doing a great job. We thank the community also for understanding," she said.

She hopes that everything will be back to normal on

Saipan and Tinian with respect to power and water operations by next year—January and February.

San Nicolas-Manglona said that, as Camacho mentioned in his presentation about the progress of restoration efforts after Yutu, if the generators given by the

Federal Emergency Management Agency are prepared at the water wells on Saipan, CUC is ready for the next strong typhoon.

"Next time, if we have a typhoon (hope to God it's not within one or two years), I guess we will be ready," she said.

## Torres, Palacios form Transition Committee

By **JON PEREZ**  
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REPORTER

Governor-elect Ralph DLG Torres and lieutenant governor-elect Arnold I. Palacios formed a Committee on Transition last week, with James A. Ada, the local GOP president, appointed as chair.

The transition committee already began its work of compiling a report based on the assessment and reviews of all agencies, boards, commissions, departments, instrumentalities, public corporations, or other entities of the CNMI government.

The incoming administration starts in January 2019.

Former lawmaker Felicidad T. Ogomoro, Torres' senior policy adviser Glenna S. Palacios-Reyes, and Vincent DLG Torres are the other members of the committee.

They are asking all heads to provide information to the transition sub-committee chair that was assigned to them no later than 4pm on Dec. 24, Monday.

The transition committee, as mandated under Executive Order 2018-26, would then compile a report after assessing and reviewing all information given by all sub-committee chairs. They would submit the report to Torres and Palacios for their own evaluation.

All agencies, boards, commissions, departments, instrumentalities, public corporations, or other entities of the CNMI government are asked to provide information on their mandates, budget and personnel, resource inventory, policies and regulations, future plans, other matters, and recommendations.

"[The] responses must be submitted electronically together with a hard copy to the sub-committee chair on transition no later than Dec. 24, 2018," said Ada in a letter.

"Narratives should be in Word format and financial reports should be in Excel format. This will give the Committee on Transition sufficient time to review all submissions and, if necessary, to meet with you and your staff before the transition report is submitted to the governor- and lieutenant governor-elect."

All official representatives of the Committee on Transition had been meeting with officials of all agencies, boards, commissions, departments, instrumentalities, public corporations, or other entities of the CNMI government since last Monday, Dec. 17. The gathering of information and responses to the Commission on Transition's questionnaire ends on Monday, Dec. 24.

## Apatang: Yutu cleanup about 80 pct. complete

Cleanup and debris removal on Saipan following the onslaught of Super Typhoon Yutu last October is about 70 to 80 percent complete, according to Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang.

Citing estimates of the Federal Emergency Management Agency during a recent windshield observation on Saipan, Apatang said: "We are getting there."

Apatang was given a deadline of until Jan. 15, 2019 to pick up Yutu-related debris.

"That is why we are working very hard to meet that deadline," Apatang said. "Hopefully we could pick up as much [debris] as we could in that time."

As of yesterday, the Saipan mayor noted that they were still in the southern area of Saipan, which bore most of the brunt of Super Typhoon Yutu. The

cleanup teams were finishing up San Antonio and Afetnas yesterday and are heading to As Lito up to the Northern Marianas College area.

"From [NMC], we would have to come back down and comb the areas of Oleai," he said. Apatang noted that the Oleai area is about 65 per-

cent cleaned up.

"We need to go back because some more stuff are being thrown out, so we need to go pick those up and that's it," he said.

Following Oleai, he said his team would be going through the Susupe area through Chalan Kanoa for the third time

while mixed debris are moved to the As Gonno staging area.

The mayor told *Saipan Tribune* that the Department of Public Works has been assisting with the cleanup in Koblerville, along with assistance from Church of Latter-day Saints volunteers, Marianas Young Professionals, and the Department of Corrections. (*Erwin Encinares*)



### SUPPORTING TINIAN

Marines with the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit's, Marine Air Control Group Detachment 18, Marine Air Traffic Control Mobile Team, set up an expeditionary runway during U.S. Defense Support of Civil Authorities relief efforts on Tinian last Nov. 9, 2018.

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# Gas prices continue to roll back as year ends

The CNMI saw its third gas price rollback close to two months following Super Typhoon Yutu and a couple of weeks before the end of 2018.

Mobil stations lowered their gas prices by 10 cents last Monday, bringing their prices down from \$4.23 per gallon of Extra fuel to \$4.13

per gallon and their Supreme fuel is down from \$4.60 per gallon to \$4.50.

This came shortly after Mobil Guam decreased its prices last Monday.

Shell gas stations followed suit and decreased their gas prices by the same amount last Tuesday.

The CNMI saw its first gas price rollback of 2018 a month

following the aftermath of Super Typhoon Yutu.

The second gas price rollback of the year was seen

early this month. **(Kimberly A. Bautista)**

## High court vacates sentence and remands case for resentencing

The CNMI Supreme Court vacated Sonny Babauta's 21-year sentence for burglary yesterday and remanded his case to the Superior Court for resentencing.

In its opinion in *Commonwealth v. Sonny Babauta*, the high court directed Superior Court Presiding Judge Roberto Naraja to assign the case to a different judge, who will resentence Babauta.

Babauta was originally sentenced to 21 years in prison, with 16 years suspended, without the possibility of parole.

In 2012, Babauta and three others entered a warehouse and took property worth \$4,230. At trial, the jury convicted Babauta of two counts of burglary, two counts of conspiracy to commit burglary, two counts of theft, and two counts of conspiracy to commit theft.

The Supreme Court reviewed Babauta's sentence. In his appeal, Babauta claimed: 1) the trial court did not properly individualize his sentence; 2) the trial court improperly restricted his parole eligibil-

ity; and 3) his case should be remanded to a different judge for resentencing.

The Supreme Court found Babauta's sentencing order resembled the sentencing order in *Commonwealth v. Lizama*.

Just as in *Lizama*, the high court found the sentencing decision, including the trial court's justification restricting parole, was not properly tailored to Babauta's individual circumstances. Therefore, the high court held the sentencing decision was improper and vacated Babauta's sentence.

Although remanding to a different judge for resentencing is warranted only under unusual circumstances, the Supreme Court found it proper to do so. It noted the trial court's reasoning that Babauta's lack of a prior criminal record justified a longer sentence demonstrated an inability to remain impartial. Thus, remand to a different judge for resentencing was proper.

The full opinion is available at <http://www.cnmilaw.org/supreme18.html>. **(PR)**

## Rota doing well 3 months after Mangkhut

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**  
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REPORTER

The island of Rota has been recovering well following the onslaught of Typhoon Mangkhut, the biggest storm to hit Rota since the early 2000s.

John Hirsh, American Red Cross-NMI Chapter executive director, said that things have been looking up for Rota since Mangkhut hit.

"Things on Rota have recovered fairly well. There was a lot of resources expended [on] Rota after Mangkhut... not only by the Red Cross but many agencies," he said.

The Red Cross was one of the agencies that immediately responded on Rota. The chapter set up camp on the island almost immediately after the storm and has been there to aid in both short- and long-term recovery.

There are homes that remain uninhabitable as a result of the storm, but there are agencies like the Federal Emergency Management Agency that are still on Rota to assist in the long-term recovery process.

Fortunately, Hirsh said, Super Typhoon Yutu largely spared

Rota, so recovery efforts from Mangkhut were not disrupted.

"Fortunately, they weren't really impacted by Yutu...they had some damage but nothing like we experienced [on Saipan and Tinian]," he said.

Hirsh said that Rota recovery wouldn't have been possible without the help of generous sponsors.

"We're incredibly grateful for the generosity of not only our volunteers for being able to leave their families and provide help to those in need but also to all of our donors...who have come up and supported the Red Cross and understand the important work that we are doing. Without their support, we can't do anything. ... We are 100-percent reliant on our volunteers and on donations of the people of the community," said Hirsh.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, power and water have been completely restored on Rota and debris removal in the villages has been completed. All that remains is the ongoing renovation of homes, establishments, and the restoration of popular tourist spots.

## High court affirms sentence on remand

The CNMI Supreme Court affirmed Anthony Borja's 10-year sentence in a sex abuse case but remanded the case to cure a defect restricting his parole eligibility.

This is Borja's second appeal related to his conviction for sexual abuse of a minor in the second degree.

In its opinion in *Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands v. Anthony H.*

*Borja* issued on Dec. 18, the high court, in part, vacated Borja's sentence in the first appeal because the trial court insufficiently individualized his sentence and relied solely on elements of the offense to justify imposition of the maximum prison term.

On remand, the court resented Borja to 10 years' imprisonment and restricted his parole eligibility until serving

six years. He appealed arguing: (1) the trial court insufficiently individualized his sentence, impermissibly used elements of the offense as aggravating factors, and did not consider available mitigating factors; (2) the trial court did not provide proper justification for the restriction on parole eligibility; and (3) to remand his case to a new sentencing judge.

In reviewing Borja's second sentence, the Supreme Court determined the trial court once again impermissibly relied on an element of the crime. However, unlike the first appeal where the sentence was based solely on an impermissible sentence factor, here the trial court considered numerous mitigating and aggravating factors and further discussed the four sentencing goals—in-capacitation, deterrence, rehabilitation and reformation.

See **HIGH** on Page 4

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## Apatang urges Aussie envoy to include Saipan in promotions

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang urged a member of the Australian Embassy in the

Federated States of Micronesia to also promote Saipan in Australia

During her courtesy visit to Apatang's office yesterday, Apatang urged Australian Em-

bassy deputy head of mission on Pohnpei Eliza Woolcock to include Saipan in tourism promotions for Guam and FSM in Australia.

## SAMARITAN

From Page 1

of Saipan to The Wild Animal Sanctuary in Colorado.

Samaritan's Purse airlifted more than 80 tons of relief supplies to Saipan in the aftermath of Super Typhoon Yutu. On the organization's third relief flight, the Federal Emergency Management Agency and U.S. officials reportedly asked for the organization's help in remov-

ing the big cats from a badly damaged roadside zoo. Video footage from Samaritan's Purse shows Lambert, a male African lion, and Tasha, a Siberian tiger, traveling on the organization's DC-8 aircraft to the Colorado sanctuary, where they'll spend the rest of their lives in comfort.

"Like the good Samaritan the organization is named for, the kind people at Samaritan's Purse lent a helping hand, flying these big cats to the U.S.

and helping to give them a new lease on life in Colorado's beautiful Wild Animal Sanctuary," said PETA vice president Colleen O'Brien. "PETA hopes this story will remind everyone that when animals are in trouble, it's up to each of us to be a good Samaritan."

The big cats' rescue was also made possible by Tigers in America, an organization that coordinated the rescue and purchased desperately needed food and veterinary

care for the animals, and by The Wild Animal Sanctuary, which rushed equipment and personnel to Saipan to manage the animals' transport and will now provide them with lifelong care.

Samaritan's Purse will receive a framed certificate from PETA, whose motto reads, in part, that "animals are not ours to use for entertainment or abuse in any other way.

For more information, visit PETA.org. (PR)

## ECONOMY

From Page 1

some of [Yutu's] effect on our economic growth because for the whole month of November we didn't have any tourists. Being a resilient community and business, I am confident that we will bounce back," Torres told *Saipan Tribune*.

Mangkhut hit Rota in September, while Yutu brought Saipan and Tinian to their knees in October. Rota felt the brunt of Mangkhut on Sept. 10, while Yutu, a category 5 tropical cyclone that's considered to be the strongest to hit the Commonwealth in almost 40 years, left a trail of ruin on Saipan and Tinian, caused by its more than 180-mile-per-hour winds. Over 1,000 homes were either totally destroyed or had major damage caused by Yutu.

Yutu also caused the closure of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, leaving the traffic control tower non-operational; that caused hundreds of tourists to be stranded on the island. International flights were cancelled as the airport could only accommodate planes that were bringing in equipment and other aid for relief and recovery efforts.

Prior to Mangkhut and Yutu, the BEA reported that the CNMI economy grew by 25.1 percent in 2017, based on

its gross domestic product estimates. The data, which was in stark contrast to more than 10 years ago when the local economy was in a tailspin, showed the CNMI was one of the fastest rising economies among U.S. states and territories for the second straight year.

Torres said the CNMI is coming back from those two destructive typhoons at a much faster pace than when Typhoon Soudelor hit Saipan in 2015. "We've seen it [recovery efforts]. Although, there are still some areas that are without power and water, our recovery—and I think we will all agree—is a lot better than Soudelor."

He credited many groups for the rapid the recovery. "We're going to continue our working relationships with our federal partners and other organizations. We will continue to foster that partnership to make sure that all the priorities and needs are addressed. And our partners know that we continue to work hard to make sure the recovery continues at the pace that we need."

### New partner

Torres is also optimistic about the recent signing of a joint promotional agreement between the CNMI and low-cost-carrier Skymark Airlines Inc., which hopes to revive the declining Japanese market by offering direct flights from Tokyo to Saipan. Skymark

would kick off its operations with charter flights until they could secure and launch regular scheduled flights.

The CNMI and Skymark sealed that partnership early this month, with Torres leading the CNMI delegation that also included Marianas Visitors Authority board chair Marian Aldan-Pierce and managing director Chris Concepcion. They met with Skymark president Masahiko Ichie and other top executives of the company in Tokyo.

Torres said that Skymark is looking to launch its inaugural flight to Saipan by either March or April next year. "They [Skymark] have been working diligently. ...Once we get the clearance, we will move forward with the actual date of the inaugural flight."

Torres added that the government is working to ensure that there won't be any problems once Skymark starts its operations in the CNMI. "We've been working with MVA and our other business partners here to make sure we have enough accommodation for our Japanese tourists when they start flying in."

The joint promotional agreement between the CNMI and Skymark was a priority of the Torres administration, with the goal of revitalizing the Japanese market and re-establishing economic and cultural ties between the people of Japan

of materials.

"There's going to be a lot of people connected between now and then, as the connection will continue to grow," he said.

On Tinian, CUC intends to meet 100 percent power restoration by the end of January for all residential customers and the businesses would be toward early to mid-February, Camacho said.

More materials arrived on Saipan on Wednesday night and more would arrive again on Dec. 27.

Camacho also disclosed that they are finalizing a

and the Commonwealth.

### To continue progress

Torres plans to meet with all the incoming members of the Legislature and his administration wants to work closely with them to make sure the CNMI's economic progress continues. "The people have spoken and I congratulate all the winners that were voted by the people. I would like to meet with them to discuss some issues."

The local Republican Party remains the majority in the 21st Legislature that will have Rep. Blas Jonathan T. Attao as the House speaker, while outgoing lieutenant governor and senator-elect Victor B. Hocog as the next Senate president.

"I would also like to congratulate the [GOP] leadership. And, like we have done in the past, we will continue to work with them, to make sure that we have one vision for the CNMI and that vision is to continue the progress that we now have. We want to continue the economic prosperity," said Torres.

"To make sure that our children are better off today than they were in the past, and also that they be better off in the future as we hand the government back to them when they are ready to take over. Our children are our future. So, we're going to make sure we'll continue building a stronger foundation for them."

contract for additional linemen to come by the end of the year to the first few days of next year to add to the existing ground labor force and speed up the restoration.

"That's going to affect Saipan and Tinian," he said.

Camacho said that installing concrete poles is the direction they want to go as wooden poles are just very challenging to get.

"We want to make it better, more resilient, stronger, hard, consistent," he said, adding that 200 concrete poles are coming in.

"Australians are great tourists," said Apatang, adding that Australia was a promising tourist market for the CNMI back in the 1980s.

"I asked [Woolcock] to see if she can encourage some tourists to come here from Australia,"

## STUDY

From Page 1

of the storm.

The study concluded that Super Typhoon Yutu is, by far, one of the strongest typhoons to make landfall (eye passage) in the CNMI and rivals Super Typhoon Jean that devastated Saipan in April 1968 and Super Typhoon Karen that devastated Guam in November 1962.

Super Typhoon Karen flattened Guam back in 1962 with maximum sustained winds of 175 miles per hour and gusts of over 200.

In the final analysis, Guard and Lander also concluded that Yutu's maximum wind intensity while crossing Saipan and Tinian was at 170 mph, with gusts of up to 200 mph.

The Yutu assessment also depended on an evaluation of the damage to structures and vegetation, on the measurement of coastal inundation, and on individual interviews to determine exactly where the eye passed.

The assessment team found that the worst damage to vegetation appeared to be on northern Tinian. The power distribution systems on both Tinian and the southern half of Saipan were severely damaged, with hundreds of power poles toppled, hundreds of transformers destroyed, and hundreds of miles of downed power distribution lines.

They also found that hundreds of homes were severely damaged, and most wood and tin roofs were destroyed, even those anchored to concrete structures. Concrete structures with concrete roofs fared relatively well, despite reports of many metal storm shutters being ripped from buildings. The maximum coastal inundation was measured at around 30 feet above sea level at Long Beach on the east coast of Tinian. Water levels of 20 to 25 feet were measured at Tank Beach on eastern Saipan and Ladder Beach on

he said, adding that the Pacific Islands Club Saipan in Chalan Kanoa was owned by an Australian decades ago.

"There used to be a lot of Australians here on Saipan," Apatang said. (Erwin Encinares)

southern Saipan.

Lander was on Saipan during the passage of the typhoon and set up a rain gauge and a barometer at his location in San Vicente. All official ground-based instrumentation failed on Tinian and Saipan as the winds surged well above 100mph. The minimum pressure in San Vicente dropped to 921.7 millibars (mb), according to Lander's findings.

After necessary adjustments, the pressure was used to estimate the minimum central surface pressure of Yutu, which was found to be somewhere in the range of 905-910 mb. His rain gauge recorded about 10 inches of rainfall during the storm, which was used to supplement the 2.66 inches of rainfall recorded up to midnight at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport.

A Saipan resident measured a peak wind speed of 168 mph at his residence on Wireless Ridge (722 feet above sea level), and an anemometer located at the Pacific Amusement Office on Middle Road in Gualo Rai recorded a peak wind speed of 133 mph. These wind measurements provided important information about the distribution of winds across Saipan.

Yutu began as a disturbance in the western Marshall Islands around Oct. 19 and headed toward the Marianas over the next week at an average speed around 12 mph.

Yutu passed directly over the island of Tinian on the night of Oct. 24 through the early morning hours of Oct. 25.

The impacts to Tinian and the southern half of Saipan were catastrophic. Yutu's satellite intensity estimate peaked at 155 knots (178 mph and category 5) just prior to landfall over Tinian and the southern half of Saipan. That value seems to establish the upper limit of the maximum intensity while over the islands.

In comparison, the Joint Typhoon Warning Center measured Typhoon Soudelor at 180 mph, making it a category 5-equivalent super typhoon.

prescribed minimum parole. The high court remanded to the same sentencing judge to correct the parole defect.

Finally, because the prison term was affirmed and remanded only to correct the parole eligibility defect, the high court declined to review Borja's request to remand to a different sentencing judge.

The full opinion is available at <http://www.cnmilaw.org/supreme18.html>. (PR)

## CUC

From Page 1

day's CUC board meeting, Camacho said that an estimated 8,316 customers have already been energized.

Completed pole installation is at 65 percent, primary wire connection is at 77 percent, secondary wire connection is at 13 percent, service wire connection is at 36 percent, and framing is at 66 percent, he added.

On Tinian, Camacho said almost 40 percent of customers now have power.

He conceded, though, that restoration efforts there started late.

Camacho said completed pole installation is at 20 percent, transformer is at 40 percent, primary wire connection is at 4 percent, secondary wire connection is at 38 percent, service connection is at 2 percent, and framing is at 20 percent on Tinian.

In a later interview, Camacho hopes to have 100 percent power back on Saipan and Tinian by the middle to end of February—depending on a different number of things and availability

## HIGH

From Page 3

The high court also considered Borja's six-year parole restriction. Because the parole statute requires Borja to serve at least six years and eight months to be eligible for parole, the high court determined the six-year restriction impermissibly restricted parole eligibility below the statutorily



## 'CPA unable to determine hidden damage at Saipan airport...'

Until an ongoing assessment is completed at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan Airport, the Commonwealth Ports Authority would be unable to determine the exact damage the airport sustained from the destruction of Super Typhoon Yutu.

CPA executive director Christopher S. Tenorio pointed this out to emphasize that there are hidden damage such as electrical components and building integrity that have yet to be determined.

"Although the Saipan airport is back to normal operations, we still have a long road ahead toward recovery," said Tenorio in his report to the CPA board last Tuesday.

He said there are many items that need to be addressed. For one, the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting training center took a major blow and will need to be repaired.

In his report to the CPA board, Tenorio discussed how CPA employees worked to clean up the damaged areas and removed debris around the airport terminal during the initial week after the typhoon and how CPA worked with the airlines and the South Korean consulate to evacuate about 800 stranded passengers from Saipan.

Tenorio also outlined their efforts that led to the Saipan airport's re-opening for daytime operations with commercial flights by Nov. 15—less than a month after Yutu.

On Nov. 20, CPA started full operations for both day and night, but majority of the airlines started flying in only on Nov. 27.

Yutu hit Saipan and Tinian last Oct. 24 and 25.

Tenorio said the Saipan airport continued to operate on generators until Nov. 17. To date, he said, CPA is temporarily connected to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. power grid.

He said the Federal Aviation Administration worked on the navigational aids by bringing in a few engineers to assist in the repair work. He said a lot of the parts for the damaged navigational aids were from off island.

The air traffic control tower was also severely damaged, so a temporary mobile air traffic controller was set up at the airport.

He said the FAA managed to repair all the navigational aids and conduct the required flight checks by Nov. 27.

The perimeter fence around the airport sustained major

damage, so CPA had to post an officer at certain gates and proceed with temporary repairs.

Tenorio said the Transportation Security Administration would not allow them to operate without sufficient security measures. After the temporary fence repairs were completed, CPA had to send the airport security plan to TSA Honolulu for approval. CPA managed to get the TSA's approval in time for the flights.

He said a lot of the windows at the holding rooms on the international side got blown out by the typhoon, which led to flooding of the terminal. Tenorio said the biggest damage was that they lost all six jetways—the retractable connector that extends from the airport to the plane. The Department of Transportation managed to provide CPA with two stair carts to use in lieu of the jetways.

Tenorio said DOT has already placed an order for four stair carts, but it will take some time to get them as they are being fabricated.

Tenorio said CPA, however

had already awarded a contract for the replacement of three jetways using FAA funds.

He said the arrival and installation of the new jetways is expected to take about a year and a half to two years.

CPA's biggest hit at the Saipan airport were the air conditioners. Fortunately, he said, CPA was already expecting the delivery of the eight new units that were procured prior to the storm. Tenorio said the eight units are already at CPA's designated location, but some of the ducting were damaged, which caused a delay in installing the new units.

He said CPA has the vendor working on the new units as well as repairing the existing units.

As for the severely damaged Saipan commuter terminal, Tenorio said the facility was covered and closed as it poses a hazard to the public. CPA has already hired engineers to fully assess the commuter building. Once the assessment is done, only then will they be able to determine CPA's next steps for that building, Tenorio said.

Outside the commuter terminal, the canopy collapsed, posing safety issues. He said

CPA immediately hired contractors to remove the pieces of steel lying on the parking lot and blocking the roads.

"Today, you will find a temporary commuter terminal which consist of container offices that CPA provided for the commuter airlines," he said.

The parking at the airport, he said, is now usable as the contractor cleaned up the area and it is now safe.

On Tinian, Tenorio said the airport opened last Nov. 15 for commercial flights. Unfortunately, he said, the airport only operates during daylight hours because of the lack of navigational aids.

The airport continues to run on generator power. Saipan maintenance personnel did visit the Tinian airport to install some apron lights. Unfortunately, he said, the airport is experiencing electrical issues.

The Port of Tinian continues to have no power. He said vessels calling on the port are instructed to bring their own lighting system. Tenorio said the lighting system for the port has been ordered. "Upon receipt of the lighting system, installation will [start]," he said. *(Fedia de la Torre)*

## Huge barrier isn't trapping plastic waste in Pacific Ocean

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A floating device sent to corral a swirling island of trash between California and Hawaii has not swept up any plastic waste — but the young innovator behind the project said Monday that a fix was in the works.

Boyan Slat, 24, who launched the Pacific Ocean cleanup project, said the speed of the solar-powered barrier isn't allowing it to hold on to the plastic it catches.

"Sometimes the system actually moves slightly slower than the plastic, which

of course you don't want because then you have a chance of losing the plastic again," Slat said in an interview with The Associated Press.

A crew of engineers will reach the U-shaped boom Tuesday and will work for the next few weeks to widen its span so that it catches more wind and waves to help it go faster, he said.

A ship towed the 2,000-foot-long (600-meter-long) barrier in September from San Francisco to the Great Pacific Garbage Patch.

## Army Corps of Engineers proposes danger zone off Guam

HAGATNA, Guam (AP)—The Army Corps of Engineers has proposed creating a new surface danger zone that would restrict boat traffic along Guam's northwest coast when a firing range is in use.

The Pacific Daily News reports the zone supporting the military's small arms firing range at Finegayan would extend about 2.4 miles (3.9 kilometers) from shore and about

1 mile (1.6 kilometers) from end to end.

According to the proposed rule published in the Federal Register, vessels would not be allowed to stop or loiter in the zone when the range

is in use. The boats would be allowed to quickly travel through the zone.

The military plans to display a red flag during the day and use a strobe light at night when the range is active.

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## 'Cannabis commission's priorities include educating public'

By JON PEREZ  
jon\_perez@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Lawrence Duponcheel is optimistic that all those who have been involved in pushing for the legalization of cannabis in the CNMI would become sensible partners in educating the community of its advantages.

Duponcheel, who has been nominated to be the Tinian

representative on the CNMI Cannabis Commission, said that educating the community, especially the skeptics and those who express strong concerns, would be one of the commission's priority.

"We will work to educate the general public of the positive experiences among states that have legalized [marijuana use] and by creating a high-

quality program that is consistent with the guidelines laid out in Public Law 20-66."

P.L. 20-66, also known as the Taulamwar Sensible CNMI Cannabis Act of 2018, allows the recreational and medical use of marijuana in the CNMI. It was signed into law by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres last September.

Duponcheel said that

through the process of developing strong rules and regulations for the program, "we should be able convince those who are still concerned about negative consequences of legalization that P.L. 20-66 is not a free-for-all but...a truly modern and strict approach to re-adapting our communities to how we deal with cannabis within our society, which has

been around since at least the 1960s, here in the CNMI."

He added that severe penalties on illegal cannabis use, like distribution to a minor, are already in place after P.L. 20-66 became a law. "Everyone should remember that we are moving away from a system of no regulations and governance and toward a system of regulating, controlling, and taxing cannabis."

Duponcheel is a co-founder of Sensible CNMI, one of the non-governmental groups that worked on decriminalizing cannabis use in the Commonwealth.

He was nominated by Tinian Mayor Joey Patrick San Nicolas to be the island's representative on the CNMI Cannabis Commission, while Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has named Matthew Deleon Guerrero and Nadine Deleon Guerrero for Saipan, and Valentino Taisacan Jr. was nominated by Northern Islands Mayor Vicente C. Santos Jr.

All are awaiting confirmation by their respective legislative delegations. Thomas Songsong of Rota is the first official commission member after being confirmed last week by the Rota legislative delegation.

Once confirmed, commission members would have 180 days to formulate the rules and regulations to support what's stated in P.L. 20-66.

Marijuana use remains illegal as the commission must first come up with the rules for the commercial, personal, and recreational use of cannabis in 180 days.

"I'm certain that the commission, all of the government agencies, and local working groups involved, will develop a system for allowing for public reviews, commenting, and the continuous evaluation of the program, using social media and by other means," said Duponcheel.

"The evidence in support of regulating, controlling, and taxing cannabis is now widely available and consistently positive, in terms of contributing to net benefits to the societies that have chosen to legalize cannabis."

Many U.S. states have legalized marijuana use, either for medical or recreational use or both, like Washington State, Oregon, California, Nevada, Colorado, Michigan, Vermont, Massachusetts, Maine, and Alaska. Twenty-two other states have legalized medical marijuana.

Some groups, however, have expressed concern on the impact of the cannabis legalization law on the CNMI's image as a family-friendly tourist destination. Marianas Visitors Authority board chair Marian Aldan-Pierce said they are waiting for the promulgation of the rules by the cannabis commission.



Middle school students of Green Meadow School managed to garner winning spots during the second pre-regional meet of the National Junior Speech and Debate Association competition on Dec. 1, 2018, at Grace Christian Academy.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

## GMS Falcons place well at junior forensic competition

Seven out of nine middle school students of Green Meadow School between first and fifth grades managed to garner winning spots during the second pre-regional meet


of the National Junior Speech and Debate Association competition on Dec. 1, 2018, at Grace Christian Academy.

In the midst of Super Typhoon Yutu recovery, having

no Commonwealth Utilities Corp. power, and many lost possessions, the students' achievements that day was a sweet victory to savor.

GMS administration, fac-

ulty, staff, and parents would like to congratulate all the NJSDA participants for doing their very best on that day. Soar higher, Falcons! (GMS)



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

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**Eli D. Cabrera**

Administrator

**Janice E. Castro**


Director, DCRM

### RESCHEDULED MEETING OF THE CRM AGENCY OFFICIALS

Thursday, December 27, 2018, 9:30AM  
BECQ 2nd Floor Main Conference Room  
Lower Gualo Rai, Middle Road, Saipan

### AGENDA

- I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS**
  - A. Call to Order
  - B. Roll Call
  - C. Adoption of Agenda
  - D. Adoption of December 03, 2018 Meeting Minutes
- II. PERMIT APPLICATION REVIEW**
  - A. Project: NEW CENTURY HOTEL – The New Century Hotel, LLC is proposing to renovate and convert an existing three-story office building to a forty-eight (48) room hotel operation. The hotel will include 36 parking spaces – 2 ADA compliance parking stalls, 27 guests parking, and 7 for hotel operation use. The building is connected to the CUC power, water, and sewer line. The project site is located in Tanapag Village south of Tanapag Elementary School, east of the Youth Center, and west of Chalan Pale Arnold Road. The size of the property is approximately 1,800 square meters, more or less.  
CRM Permit Application No. SMS-2019-X-001
    - 1) Agencies' Discussion of Application Status
    - 2) Agencies' Permit Conditions
    - 3) CRM Permit Application Final Determination
  - B. Project: LUCKING HOTEL – The USA Fanter Corp., Ltd. is proposing to construct a four-story hotel building with 39 guest rooms and 28 parking stalls including 1 ADA parking. The first floor will include 28 automated parking with 1 ADA, a small office space, service elevator, water catchment, and a backup generator. The second, third, and fourth floor will each have 13 guest rooms.  
CRM Permit Application No. SMS-2019-X-003
    - 1) Agencies' Discussion of Application Status
    - 2) Agencies' Permit Conditions
    - 3) CRM Permit Application Final Determination
- III. OTHER MATTERS**
- IV. ADJOURNMENT**



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## INVITATION TO BID

**ITB19-GOV-007**

### SUPPLY & DELIVERY OF ROLL-OFF TRUCK WITH CABLE HOIST & TARPING SYSTEM for the TINIAN TRANSFER STATION

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres, and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP), (collectively, "Commonwealth") are soliciting sealed bids for the Supply and Delivery of Roll-Off Truck with Cable Hoist and Tarping System for the Tinian Transfer Station, Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on December 4, 2018 at the Office of Management & Budget, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan. A \$25.00 non-refundable fee for the project package will be assessed. All interested bidders are required to include an Insurer Certification Clearance (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC should be obtained at the Department of Commerce, Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, as revised through May 24, 2001 and with the Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (NMIAC) §70-30-3-725 Gratuities and Kickbacks and §70.30.3-730 Prohibition Against Contingent Fees. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

There will be a pre-bid conference for this project on **Thursday, December 6, 2018, 10:00 am ChST** at the CIP Office in Capitol Hill, Saipan. Questions concerning this project shall be directed to Ms. Nerissa Benavente in writing by e-mail: [nerissa.cip@gmail.com](mailto:nerissa.cip@gmail.com), on or before **Thursday, December 14, 2018** to the Capital Improvement Program, Office of the Governor, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building, Capitol Hill, Saipan, or fax (670) 664-2408. All responses to inquiries will be shared with all prospective bidders.

Sealed bids must be marked **ITB19-GOV-007 Supply and Installation of Roll-off Truck with Cable Hoist & tarping System for the Tinian Transfer Station**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply located at the former Emergency Management Office, Building No. 1301, Ascension Drive, Capitol Hill on Saipan no later than **10:00 a.m. ChST January 3, 2019**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than **10:00 a.m. ChST January 3, 2019** and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to [procurement@cnmidof.net](mailto:procurement@cnmidof.net). For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than January 3, 2019 and the bid documents must be received no later than January 14, 2019. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply located at the former Emergency Management Office, Building No. 1301, Ascension Drive, Capitol Hill on Saipan at **10:30 a.m. ChST January 15, 2019**. However, if no notices of intent to bid are received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be open at **10:00 a.m. ChST January 3, 2019**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$25,000.00) a bid security of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashier's check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations Section 70-30.3-245. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00.

Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

- a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
- b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceeds the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract. Acceptable assets are only:

- 1) Cash
- 2) US Government Securities
- 3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
- 4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
- 5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is One Hundred Eighty (180) calendar days upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. The daily amount of liquidated damages shall be two percent (2%) of the contract price divided by 180 calendar days, the contract time and will be assessed as delays beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Ralph DLG. Torres

Governor

Herman S. Sablan, Director

CNMI Procurement & Supply



## Hocog expects smooth work ahead

Lt. Gov. Victor B. Hocog expects the incoming 21<sup>st</sup> Legislature to work cooperatively with the Executive Branch. "Otherwise, if we don't make things work, what's the use of us being there?"

Hocog, who will be returning to the Senate after choosing to seek one of the two Senate seats on Rota that were at stake in last month's elections, promises a smooth work flow with the Torres administration. "Definitely we are going to work closely with our counterparts in the Legislature and the administration," he said.

"We're going to try and execute the platform of the [CNMI Republican] Party. That's why we ran under one party, one team. Otherwise, we ran under one party but after you win, everyone goes in a different direction. It doesn't

make sense running in the same party," he added.

Hocog will be returning to the Legislature after he placed second behind former GOP lawmaker Teresita A. Santos as senators of the first senatorial district of Rota.

And, with a revolving door system for the Senate leadership and since it will be Rota's turn for the Senate presidency, Hocog was chosen by the senators to return to the same post that he held in the 18th Legislature before becoming lieutenant governor.

Hocog assumed the CNMI's second highest post after then-lieutenant governor Ralph DLG Torres became the governor following the death of former governor Eloy S. Inos in December 2015.

Torres himself won his first full four-year term with outgo-

ing Senate President Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan) as his running mate. The GOP has also managed to retain the majority in the House of Representatives.

"We are highly expecting to have a smooth Legislature. It is just a matter of really sitting down with members of the Legislature and the [administration], and navigate what would be the priorities that would benefit our people," said Hocog. "And then head in that direction so we can accelerate the immediate needs of our community and what our people are looking forward to."

Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) is the incoming Senate vice president, with Sen. Justo S. Quitugua (R-Saipan) as floor leader, while Sen. Sixto K. Igisomar (R-Saipan) will be the

legislative secretary.

Sens. Francisco M. Borja (R-Tinian) and Francisco Q. Cruz (R-Tinian) are the other members of the majority in the Senate that will also have

three independents—Santos and Sen. Paul A. Manglona of Rota and Saipan's Vinnie F. Sablan.

Rep. Blas Jonathan T. Attao (R-Saipan) was chosen to be

the next House speaker with Rep. Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero (R-Saipan) as the vice speaker. Rep. John Paul P. Sablan (R-Saipan) is the floor leader. *(Jon Perez)*

## JKPL marks 27 years with holiday activities

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library turned 27 years old yesterday, Dec. 19. In honor of the occasion, the library's staff and management have lined up many exciting activities. Be sure to check them out.

### Children's Library:

■ Library Trivia: Tuesday-Saturday, 9:30am-4:30pm

■ Pop Star Tattoos: Tuesday-Friday, 9:30am-4:30pm

■ Movie Day: *The Princess Switch*, PG, Wednesday at 10am and 1pm

■ Movie Day: *How the Grinch Stole Christmas*, PG, Thursday at 10am and 1pm

■ Joeten-Kiyu Public Li-

brary Birthday Card: Tuesday-Friday, 9:30am-4:30pm

■ Bead bracelet craft: Tuesday-Friday, 9:30am-4:30pm; for ages 6-12 only

### Main lobby

■ Free gift-wrapping station: all week. Limit of two gifts per person: must have a library card clear of fines. While supplies last.

■ Cookie decorating contest: Tuesday, 3:30pm-4:30pm. Open to all ages: children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult. Sign up in the library as a team (two people) or individually!

■ DIY card making station:

all week. Open to all ages: children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult.

■ Hot chocolate bar: Friday, starting at 9am. LIMIT 1 cup per person: must have a library card clear of fines. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult. While supplies last.

■ Movie Day: *Christmas with the Kranks*, PG, Saturday at 12:30pm. Free popcorn for movie-watchers!

■ In addition, special presentations will be happening at the library to promote literacy: be sure to stop by and see what they have to offer! *(PR)*

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# UOG kicks off membership in sustainability consortium



Anita Borja Enriquez, University of Guam's senior vice president for academic affairs, explains the value of the GCSO membership with faculty and administrators.

UNIVERSITY OF GUAM



Rommel Hidalgo, chief information officer for University of Guam, shows a map of other member institutions of the Global Consortium for Sustainability Outcomes with which UOG faculty can collaborate on sustainability projects.

UNIVERSITY OF GUAM



Austin Shelton, executive director for University of Guam's Center for Island Sustainability, serves as UOG's representative in the GCSO network.

UNIVERSITY OF GUAM



University of Guam faculty and administrators register on the GCSO database as potential project collaborators with the other member institutions.

UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

More than 20 faculty and administrators learned of a new source of funding and new opportunities for international collaborations on Dec. 12 at a meeting marking the start of the

University of Guam's membership in the Global Consortium for Sustainability Outcomes.

The consortium is an invitation-only international network of universities and research institutes advancing solutions to sustainability challenges through research, development, and capacity building.

Over a conference call during the meeting, Karen Kao, the Arizona State University-based manager of strategic partnerships for GCSO, explained the idea behind the consortium and how being a member is beneficial.

The organization is particularly focused on putting research into action in order to help communities worldwide solve urgent sustainability issues.

"Universities are excellent at research and development, but not many solutions are being implemented on the ground," Kao said.

So the consortium aims to close what it terms an "implementation gap" between the phases of research and on-ground solutions. It does so by generating and testing a wide range of solutions and aiding the transfer of those solutions to people who can implement them.

Primary benefits for UOG as a member are being able to apply for GCSO grants and form new international collaborations.

As part of the consortium, UOG can propose sustainability projects for funding that have been tested and are ready for implementation. The projects need to have a non-academic implementation agent—a business, government, school, or non-government organization partner—who has agreed to implement the solution, and UOG must have at least two other GCSO members on board as collaborators. The project must also be scalable to work in other communities around the world.

Projects previously funded by the consortium have focused on topics ranging from building capacity in sustainable local food options to implementing off-grid renewable energy.

UOG faculty and administrators who sign up to become part of the GCSO database of 12 other member universities can be contacted for collaboration on other members' projects. UOG can then learn of other sustainability solutions that might work well in Guam.

UOG senior vice president for academic and student affairs Anita Borja Enriquez led the UOG delegation to ASU in February to meet and engage with ASU president Michael Crow and other institution leaders that resulted in the invitation to join.

"This is a unique opportunity for UOG and for Guam to be linked to the multi-year number one ranked institution in innovation," she said. "We can now see and emulate what ASU and its partner institutions are doing on a global scale, while also sharing and funding solutions we've developed here through leveraged resources."

Other member institutions of GCSO include Arizona State University, Portland State University, and universities and colleges in Hong Kong, Thailand, Mexico, Germany, and the United Kingdom. (UOG)

## UOG society announces scholarship program

The officers and members of the University of Guam Society of Emeritus Professors and Retired Scholars announced yesterday the society's scholarship program for the 2019–2020 academic year.

This scholarship is open to and intended to support any registered full-time UOG student with a general point average of 3.0 or higher. Award amounts are \$500 per semester or \$1,000 per academic year.

Applications required to submit an essay and a letter of recommendation and must be received by the UOG Financial Aid Office by Feb. 28, 2019, at 5pm, Chamorro Standard Time. Students may access the application and eligibility and selection criteria at <https://url.uog.edu/FeX7Gu> or by contacting the Financial Aid Office at (671) 735-2288 or at [finaid@triton.uog.edu](mailto:finaid@triton.uog.edu).

A successful applicant will be notified of the scholarship award by the end of March and will be invited to attend an



UNIVERSITY OF GUAM

The University of Guam Society of Emeritus Professors and Retired Scholars at a meeting in September. From left, UOG president Thomas W. Krise; president emeritus Robert A. Underwood; professor emerita Rebecca A. Stephenson; professor emerita Cynthia B. Sajnovsky; professor emerita and SEPRS treasurer Filomena Cantoria; professor emeritus Robert M. Sajnovsky; professor emeritus and SEPRS chair Lawrence Kasperbauer; professor emerita Lourdes Klitzkie; director emeritus and SEPRS vice chair Hiro Kurashina; professor emeritus Jose A. Cruz; professor emeritus and SEPRS secretary Randall L. Workman; and professor emeritus George Kallingal.

award ceremony in April.

The SEPRS Scholarship is made possible by generous

donations from its members both on-and off-island and is managed by the UOG En-

dowment Foundation and the UOG Student Financial Aid Office. (UPG)



# Joeten foundation donates to the Salvation Army

Wrapping up its donations last week, the Joeten Daidai Foundation gave an in-kind donation worth \$10,000 to the CNMI Salvation Army for Super Typhoon Yutu relief efforts.

"The Salvation Army plays such a remarkable role in feeding the masses and we are pleased to assist them in their mission," said foundation director Patty T. Palacios during the turnover at the Joeten Susupe executive conference room. "While the foundation is unable to donate to every organization in the CNMI, we turn to these nonprofits, such as the Salvation Army, Karidat, and the American Red Cross, because of their compassion and willingness to serve our people, especially during times of crisis."

Maj. Kimberly Stambaugh, Salvation Army officer, said:

"With this donation, it continues the effort to feed the community; and I know that it's going to be a long time. I'm sure more people will come to receive a warm meal while they're recovering and fixing their own places. So we're going to be there, staying strong and continuing to be able to help those that come to us."

Established in 1994, the Joeten Daidai Foundation has continually fulfilled its mission in giving back to the community by promoting the advancement of education, religion, science, and charitable deeds. (PR)

The Joeten Daidai Foundation gives a donation worth \$10,000 to the CNMI Salvation Army for Super Typhoon Yutu relief efforts at the Joeten Susupe executive conference room.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



## Ex-Japanese consul to Marianas donates to recovery efforts

"I felt I had to do something help or support you and started fundraising activities alone in Matsumoto city, mountainous area of Japan."

So wrote Toshio Matsumura in a message accompanying a donation of \$1,000 to aid the Marianas in its re-

covery from Super Typhoon Yutu, which hit the islands in October 2018.

Matsumura is a former Japanese consul to the CNMI and was named an honorary Marianas tourism ambassador by the Marianas Visitors Authority in March 2018.

"When I saw photographs of the disaster of Yutu, I was very much surprised at the damage," he said. "I know that all of you lost your life-line and are troubled. ...I began to ask my tennis fellows for donations, called on a temple priesthood, attended some gatherings in Nagoya,

and even paid a...visit to the office of the Matsumoto Yamaga soccer team. The amount of the donation is so small, but our wish [for speedy recovery] is very heavy, which I hope you feel. I pray that your normal life



Matsumura

will return soon and you will proceed in the way of prosperity again."

Matsumura also acknowledged It-suro Hosoda, owner of Himawari on Saipan, and Kentaro Imaaya of ANAKS for their donations and assistance. The MVA is

currently accepting public donations in Japan for the #MarianasSTRONG recovery campaign.

To mark the recovery of the islands after the typhoon, MVA and the community will host the #MarianasSTRONG Yearend Celebration on Dec. 29, 2018, from 5pm to 10pm at Paseo de Marianas pedestrian mall in Garapan. (MVA)



## Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-19-001

### Repair of CUC Power Plant No. 2 Building Structure, Lower Base, Saipan, CNMI

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for the Repair of CUC Power Plant No. 2 Building Structure, Saipan, Lower Base, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The work includes replacement of various building elements which were damaged due to the Typhoon Soudelor and also additional work required to strengthen the facility for improving its integrity with a view of withstanding elements of nature. CUC has performed partial work under an ongoing contract with another contractor.

This project is funded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval for project award from the above mentioned funding agencies.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **150 calendar days** from the date of issuance of the Notice to Proceed.

Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$150.00 for one RFP package set.

A Pre-proposal Conference will be scheduled on **December 18, 2018 at 10:00 am (ChST)**, at the power plant conference room, followed by a site visit. All attendees are required to arrive with appropriate Personal Protection Equipment (PPE). **The attendance in the conference and site visit is mandatory to ensure that the parties are fully familiar with the existing site conditions.**

**One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-19-001 - Repair of CUC Power Plant No. 2 Building Structure, Saipan, Lower Base, CNMI", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on January 4, 2019.** Late submissions and conditional Proposals will not be considered. Proposal shall be submitted on the provided Proposal Forms. Proposers are required to complete all Proposal Forms. Proposers may supplement the form as appropriate. Proposals will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 90 days after submission.

A **Proposal Guarantee** of fifteen (15%) percent of the total Proposal price must accompany the Proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or Proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A **Payment Bond** of one hundred (100%) percent and a **Performance Bond** of one hundred (100%) percent of the total Proposal price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposers. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). **Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.**

Discussions may be conducted with responsive offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

Proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Proposer due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Proposers are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered Prospective Proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on December 19, 2018** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email - manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Venugopal Prabhakara, CUC Project Manager - via email venugopal.prabhakara@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Senior Purchasing Assistant-via email christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all Proposals and waive any imperfection in the Proposal in the best interest of the government. All Proposals shall become the property of CUC.

**GARY CAMACHO**  
Acting Executive Director

**MANNY B. SABLAN**  
Purchasing Administrator



## Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-19-002

### LEASE OF OFFICE SPACE FOR CUC ROTA ADMINISTRATION & OPERATION

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC), is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from individuals or firms for the lease of office space for CUC Administration and Operation, Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The proposed office space must conform to American Disabilities Act (ADA), OSHA and CNMI Zoning regulation.

The RFP package may be obtained at the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section (Saipan, Tinian or Rota), by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$20.00 for one RFP package set. The RFP package will be provided in a CD or emailed to the registered Proponents email ID. Prospective Proposers for this RFP must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division to be considered.

**One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-RFP-19-002, Lease of Office Space for CUC Rota Administration & Operation" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on January 7, 2019.** Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services.

Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RFP and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on December 21, 2018** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Christie Sablan, Senior Purchasing Assistant via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

**GARY CAMACHO**  
Acting Executive Director

**MANNY B. SABLAN**  
Purchasing Administrator



# Opinion

## *Hafa Adai!* Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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## EDITORIAL

### Paul Allen's generosity gives hope for yet more cures

**P**aul Allen continues to give gifts benefiting Seattle and the rest of the world.

This month, two months after the Microsoft co-founder's death from cancer, the Allen Institute for Immunology was launched in Seattle's South Lake Union neighborhood. This expands what's already a strong cluster of biomedical research expertise in Seattle.

The institute's mission is to increase understanding of how healthy immune systems work and of system failures that enable disease to occur. Like Allen's institutes for brain and cell science, it will produce a knowledge base that will be shared with researchers, helping them diagnose and develop treatments for immune-related diseases.

The Allen Institute for Immunology will work in partnership with the Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, Benaroya Research Institute at Virginia Mason and the universities of Pennsylvania, Colorado and California San Diego. They'll draw on medical information provided by research subjects, including healthy ones and people suffering from cancer, rheumatoid arthritis and inflammatory bowel disease.

The field is poised for such an undertaking, according to Leroy Hood, a pioneer in genomics and systems biology.

"I think it's exactly the right time," said Hood, who was lured to Seattle by Allen's friend and Microsoft co-founder, Bill Gates, in the early 1990s.

Allen was working to launch this institute before he died of complications from non-Hodgkin lymphoma at age 65. He provided \$125 million for the institute's launch and first five years of operation. It will include 60 to 70 workers at the Allen Institute building along Mercer Street in Seattle.

That's likely just the beginning.

"Paul always said the institute is going to be around for a long, long time, so there will be lots of interesting things to come," said Allan Jones, president and chief executive officer of the Allen Institute.

Jones noted that the first Allen research institute, for brain science, started 15 years ago with \$100 million. That's grown to more than \$600 million since, and the overall institute now has multiple specialty divisions.

Over the last two years Allen also broadened the reach of the institute, establishing "discovery centers" at Stanford University, Tufts University, Harvard Medical School and UW Medicine. He also created the Paul G. Allen Frontiers Group, which funds pioneering bioscience researchers elsewhere in the world.

"The big investments, where we build these foundational tools, we share them with everybody, that's all Seattle based and goes out to the world," Jones explained. "And then we have the frontiers group, which funds out in the world, to bring ideas back."

Put another way, Seattle benefits as Allen's intentions continue to fund research that benefits mankind. What a wonderful legacy.

(c)2018 The Seattle Times



## Government shutdown? It's not as scary as you think

**"G**overnment shutdown." Probably no two words strike more fear in the hearts of Washington politicians.

The fact that another shutdown is imminent is a sign of how dysfunctional Washington's budgeting process really is. What was once an orderly process where timelines were largely met has morphed into a political game plagued by brinkmanship and out-of-control spending.

Despite promises from Congress that the process would be different this year, here we are again.

This time the biggest issue holding up a deal is a confrontation between President Donald Trump and congressional Democrats over border-security funding.

As Congress barrels towards a Friday spending showdown, the potential of a partial government shutdown is very real. But what would it actually mean?

A shutdown wouldn't be good, of course, but it's not as scary as you think. There wouldn't be lawlessness in the streets. You'd still get your Social Security check.

Here's what a shutdown and an alternative might look like:

### Government shutdown

If Congress and the president are unable to reach an agreement by Friday, then the federal government will enter into a partial shutdown. Five of 12 annual spending bills became law in September. That includes the military, so there is no threat to national defense.

It also includes the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, Interior, and Veterans Affairs. In fact, 75 percent of the discretionary budget has already been funded through September 2019.

Still, a partial shutdown would mean that major federal agencies such as the Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Justice, Homeland Security, State, and Transportation would be left without funding.

Many of the services they provide, however, would not be interrupted. 420,000 "essential" federal employees would continue to work, including 41,000 law enforcement and correctional officers and up to 88 percent of DHS employees. America's safety would not be sacrificed.

You shouldn't worry about your benefit payments being impacted either. Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid payments, as well as veterans benefits, would continue uninterrupted. These programs don't rely on Congress taking action for annual funding to continue, or their appropriations were already passed into law.

Mail service would also continue as scheduled since the postal service has its own revenue stream. National parks would remain open, though with reduced staff.

By **JUSTIN BOGIE**  
The Heritage Foundation

Justin Bogie is a senior policy analyst in Fiscal Affairs in the Grover M. Hermann Center for the Federal Budget at The Heritage Foundation ([heritage.org](http://heritage.org)).



About 380,000 federal employees would be furloughed for the duration of a shutdown, meaning that they wouldn't be paid nor expected to work. Agencies that would be most affected include the Department of Commerce, NASA, the IRS, and HUD. Based on past government shutdowns, all furloughed employees would likely be paid when the shutdown ends.

### A continuing resolution

Another possible outcome to get around the current funding impasse is for Congress to pursue a continuing resolution to keep the government open. That scenario played out as the last funding deadline approached on Dec. 7.

Under this situation, agencies would operate at their 2018 budget levels for the duration of the continuing resolution. Congress could choose to extend funding for a short period of time (likely into early 2019) or could opt for a full-year continuing resolution.

If Congress passes a short-term continuing resolution, then they would be back in the same mess in just a few short weeks.

Passing a full-year continuing resolution would put an end to the budget drama for this year. However, it would also leave both Republicans and Democrats unsatisfied, with Trump not getting additional border security money and Democrats unable to enact some of their priorities.

But it would save taxpayers money. If unfunded agencies simply continued to receive money at the 2018 level, it would cut spending by \$11 billion.

It's not a lot, but with the national debt soon expected to cross \$22 trillion, every penny counts.

Regardless of what happens, one thing is clear: The budget process is broken, and taxpayers are the real losers. When Congress is constantly budgeting by crisis, it erodes oversight and leads to wasteful spending. Citizens should demand that Congress not only make the budget process better, but also ensure a sustainable budget future.

The cost of failing to do that is much scarier than a government shutdown.



**EDITORIAL POLICY**

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

## What values define a ‘real American?’

If you had to define what it means to be American, what would your top criteria be? Would you look for a spirit of rugged individualism, or for a pattern of civic and community-minded actions like voting and philanthropy? Is your quintessential American defined by how long he has lived here or how well she speaks English – or by their values?

Our country is so polarized by the president, political parties and hot-button issues such as transgender rights and racial profiling that we don’t even start from the same sets of facts. So it’s appropriate to ask what, if anything, binds us as a people?

The answer might surprise you, judging from results of a survey of 1,000 adults around the country, commissioned by Grinnell College in Iowa and conducted by Selzer & Co. from Nov. 24 to 27. We may have more in common than we think.

Respondents were given a list of 12 characteristics and asked to rate their importance to being a “real American.” A whopping 90 percent rated as very important a belief in treating people equally. Eighty-eight percent said it was very important to take personal responsibility for one’s actions. Eighty-one percent and 78 percent respectively rated as very important accepting people of different racial and religious backgrounds.

That sounds like a remarkable degree of accord. Even on issues that politicians of both parties have used to sow divisions, the public seems more interested in values than in status. Less than a

bodies. All boys. Stacked like crayons. Boys who’d had their lives cut short by Gacy.

As a culture, we celebrate anniversaries because they remind us about what once was. This 40-year anniversary is about commemorating the 33 victims. But it is also about our need to name the final six of them. Over the summer, I was pleased to learn that detectives were still working on the Gacy case. But in six months, none of the unnamed victims has been identified, as Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart hoped.

However, there has been progress. In 2011, Jason Moran, a Cook County sheriff’s detective who has devoted much time to closing the final cold cases connected to Gacy, helped identify 19-year-old William George Bundy and 16-year-old James Byron Haakenson.

The boys who had spent more than 30 years being referred to as “John Doe” finally got their names back.

So why does this matter?

It matters because as a culture, we are quick to remember murderers, when we should be focusing on the victims. Think about the last mass shootings we’ve had. How many shooters can you name, compared to the names of their victims?

In that December of 1978, over a week that included Christmas, the bodies of 27 boys were found under Gacy’s home. Two more were found later on the property. The remaining four were dumped from nearby bridges, some found in the Des Plaines River.

Today, we pay our respects to both the identified and the unidentified boys:

Timothy Jack McCoy, Victim No. 28, John Butkovitch, Victim No. 5, Darrell Samson, Samuel Stapleton, Randall Reffett, Michael Bonnin, William Carroll, Victim No. 26, James Haakenson, Victim No. 13, Victim No. 21, Rick Johnston, William George Bundy, Michael Marino, Kenneth Parker, Gregory Godzik, John Szyk, Jon Prestidge, Victim No. 10, Matthew Bowman, Robert Gilroy, John Mowery, Russell Nelson, Robert Winch, Tommy Boling, David Talsma, William Kindred, Timothy O’Rourke, Frank Landingin, James Mazzara, Robert Piast.

In an interview last summer, Moran said, “The life of the person that

was just murdered is no more or less important than a murder victim from 30 years ago.”

And that is why we should continue to not let this case slip away. Even when a boy gets his name back, he doesn’t get his life back. Remembering him? That’s all up to us.

*Courtney Lund O’Neil is a writer from San Diego. This was written for the Chicago Tribune.*

## Remembering the 33 victims of John Wayne Gacy

By COURTNEY LUND O’NEIL  
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Why do we remember the dead? For one thing, so we don’t forget.

But also, so we can finally name them.

Last summer, my phone lit up with news reports that authorities in Des Plaines had taken some major forensic steps in re-creating facial images of two of the six victims of prolific serial killer John Wayne Gacy who have yet to be identified.

Forty years ago Friday, Gacy was arrested for reasonable cause of murder.

Ten days before his arrest, on Dec. 11, 1978, Gacy murdered 15-year-old Robert Piast and threw him into the Des Plaines River. But when Gacy was initially questioned by authorities, he denied ever speaking to the boy.

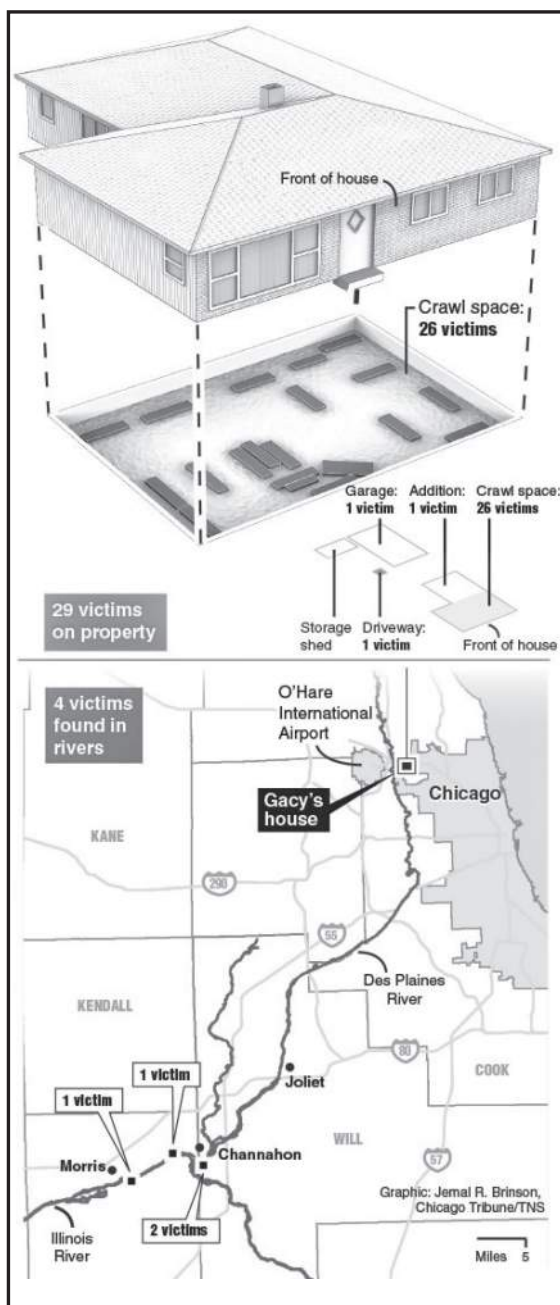
My mom, Kim Byers, was one of the last people to see Rob on the night he disappeared. She told detectives that Rob had gone out behind the pharmacy where they both worked to speak with Gacy about a summer job. She never saw her friend again.

Police had trouble establishing probable cause to conduct a search of Gacy’s home, at 8213 W. Summerdale Ave., to look for Rob, which made sense. Gacy could talk his way out of anything.

But this all changed when detectives found a film receipt in Gacy’s wastebasket with my mom’s name on it. She had slid it into Rob’s parka, which she had been wearing that night at the pharmacy before returning the jacket to him when he left with Gacy. She later told me that she’d never saved a film receipt before and wonders what made her put that one in Rob’s parka pocket.

The receipt would give authorities reason to obtain an official search warrant, where the real work would begin.

Inside Gacy’s house, police noticed an odd smell coming from below the floorboards. It would turn out not to be a sewage problem, as Gacy suggested, but rather the smell of decomposing



By REKHA BASU

Des Moines Register



*Rekha Basu is a columnist for the Des Moines Register. Readers may send her email at rbasu@dmreg.com.*

quarter of those polled, for example, consider it very important to have been born in America or to have lived here most of one’s life. Only 23 percent give great importance to being Christian. Less than half (44 percent) consider speaking English very important.

And more than half believe America has a moral responsibility to provide asylum to people fleeing violence and persecution.

Is there disconnect here between the president’s clamor for a wall at the Mexican border and his practice of separating incoming children from parents and survey results suggesting Americans are a welcoming, compassionate people?

On some particular questions, if you break down the responses by political affiliation, there are discernible differences between Republicans and Democrats. But the composite picture still points to more open-minded attitudes toward others who are different from ourselves than the political rhetoric that has been deployed to win elections would suggest. For example, a majority (58 percent) of respondents believe that Muslims face a lot of discrimination. Clearly that view is more common among Democrats, 75 percent of whom answered yes. But even among Republicans, 44 percent shared that view, as did 57 percent of independents.

For both LGBT and African-Americans, 52 percent say they are very discriminated against, while less than a third believe there’s a lot of discrimination against women.

You might suspect some respondents actually harbor prejudices of their own toward those groups (which they may or may not act upon), which is why such a high proportion agree discrimination exists. But when asked if employers should make special accommodations to religious employees who seek a private space to pray, 47 percent said they should accommodate Muslims while 41 percent disagreed. Fewer (41 percent) said employers should accommodate Christians, while 49 percent said they shouldn’t.

Reading some of these answers, you have to wonder how Donald Trump even won election. One theory might be that he used two of what political analyst Charlie Cook calls the most potent emotions in American politics: fear and hatred, using hypothetical scenarios to get votes. But when not confronted by the threat of dire outcomes, people are more reasonable.

And how do we square the amount of bigotry and hatred spewed over social media with the poll finding that 68 percent of respondents don’t think it’s OK to express hatred that way? Could it be that much of that hateful rhetoric we see is the work of organized political forces intended to sow divisions among us?

Some lesbian friends used to joke after Iowa got same-sex marriage rights that conservative political strategist Karl Rove helped open that door. They said he put the prospect of gays marrying on the radar to scare people when no one had ever dreamed of it.

Poll respondents did express some hatreds: 32 percent said they hate a politician; 26 percent hate a political party and—ouch!—18 percent hate a member of the press. But maybe the reason is they blame those groups (rightly or wrongly) for polarizing us. Overall, the responses suggest people are better than the way political fear-mongering might make some of us behave.






They also suggest we’re not much different in what we seek out of life: Asked if they would choose working at a job they love or making more money, 78 percent said they’d choose a job they really love, and only 19 percent opted for more money. And that cut across political lines.

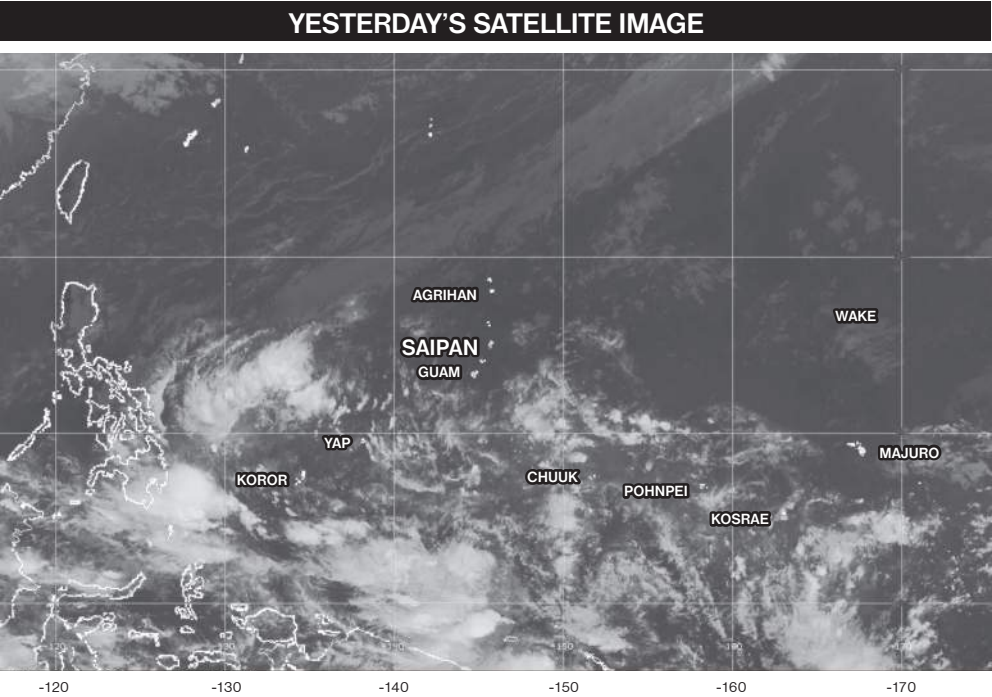
We saw a rare show of bipartisanship on the death of America’s 41st president. Tributes to George H.W. Bush came from across the political spectrum. The African American Mayors Association, in a news release, applauded Bush for public service that “reaches for goodness in individuals to find greatness for us all.”

Maybe the message here is people are sick of being manipulated into fearing and loathing one another. Maybe we should be more discerning of politicians who seek power by dividing us. Maybe, as poet Maya Angelou wrote, “We are more alike, my friend, than we are unlike.”



# The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY	
									
Breezy. Cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. East winds 20 to 25 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.		Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers.	
87°	78°	87°	78°	87°	77°	89°	77°	89°	77°



PICTURE TIME: 7:15 AM, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 19, 2018

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Today looks to be relatively dry once again as a very weak disturbance passes south of Guam early in the day. Then conditions will deteriorate Thursday into Friday as increasing trade wind convergence will bring scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. The pressure gradient between strong high pressure moving off Japan and lower pressure to the south will also bring breezy conditions. Drier weather is expected into the weekend and early next week.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°	
Palau	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 77°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°	

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Thunderstorms	72° / 63°	
Beijing	Sunny	50° / 27°	
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	75° / 70°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	78° / 69°	
London	Partly Cloudy	48° / 45°	
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	75° / 55°	
Manila	Thunderstorms	86° / 75°	
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	64° / 55°	
Miami	Thunderstorms	80° / 67°	
New York	Showers	63° / 48°	
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	63° / 54°	
Paris	Partly Cloudy	50° / 46°	
Busan	Showers	55° / 43°	
Rome	Showers	57° / 41°	
Salem	Rain	59° / 44°	
San Francisco	Cloudy	56° / 48°	
Seoul	Sunny	46° / 25°	
Tokyo	Sunny	55° / 45°	
Washington, DC	Rain	48° / 48°	



## NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- \*11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at [www.nmicrimestoppers.net](http://www.nmicrimestoppers.net)

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
6:16 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.68	
11:31 AM	LOW TIDE	0.97	
5:10 PM	HIGH TIDE	2.00	
-	-	-	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:37 AM	5:51 PM
Friday	6:37 AM	5:51 PM
Saturday	6:38 AM	5:52 PM
Sunday	6:38 AM	5:52 PM
Monday	6:39 AM	5:53 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	3:44 AM	3:40 PM
Friday	-	4:42 AM	4:31 PM
Saturday	-	5:43 AM	5:27 PM
Sunday	-	6:46 AM	6:28 PM
Monday	-	7:49 AM	7:31 PM

### NEWS DESK

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 20, 2018							
DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:15am	9:55am	Daily	UA174	7:30am	8:11am	Daily
UA105	4:45pm	5:25pm	2, 4	UA104	3:00pm	3:41pm	2, 4
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) – temporarily suspended				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN – temporarily suspended			
7C3451	3:15am	6:30am	Daily	7C3452	9:35pm	2:00am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
				7C3452	10:05pm	2:00am+1	1
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily	7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
Temporarily suspended:				Temporarily suspended:			
TW9308	1:10am	4:10am	3, 4	TW9307	6:30pm	12:10am+1	2, 3
TW308	1:35am	5:20am	Daily	TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1	TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW9308	3:20am	6:30am	2	OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
TW9308	3:25am	6:30am	5	TW9307	9:00pm	2:20am+1	1
7C3403	4:35am	8:25am	Daily	TW9307	9:05pm	2:25am+1	4
				7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:20pm	4:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)				HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN			
JD396	7:30am	11:00am	1	JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4	JD395	9:35pm	5:00am+1	7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:30am	7:55am	2, 6	3U8645	7:55pm	2:40am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK) – resume from Nov 27				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN			
MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	9:15am	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM	UA182/174	12:40am	8:11am+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA117/183	9:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	PR110/UA174	10:05pm	8:11am+1	Daily via GUM
UA117/193	9:15am	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR	UA192/174	10:30pm	8:11am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA105/183	4:45pm	9:50pm	2, 4 via GUM	UA184/174	10:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4	HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7	UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UA117/159	9:15am	11:00pm	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM	UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
				UA116/174	11:45pm	8:11am+1	2, 4, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.									
SAIPAN TO ROTA				1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily		
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily		
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily	1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily		
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily	1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily		
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily	1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily		
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily		
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily		
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily	1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily		
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily	1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily		
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily	1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily		
ROTA TO GUAM				TINIAN TO SAIPAN					
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY		
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily	2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily		
GUAM TO ROTA				2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily		
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily		
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily	2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily		
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily		
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily		
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily	2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily		
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily	2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily		
				2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily		
				2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily		
				2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily		
				2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily		





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# Business

## Shutdown threat recedes as Trump softens stance on wall

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump appeared Tuesday to back off his demand for \$5 billion to build a border wall, signaling for the first time that he might be open to a deal that would avoid a partial government shutdown.

The White House set the tone when press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders indicated that Trump doesn't want to shut down the government, though just last week he said he'd be "proud" to do so. The president would consider other options and the administration was looking at ways to find the money elsewhere, Sanders said.

It was a turnaround after days of impasse. Without a resolution, more than 800,000 government workers could be furloughed or sent to work without pay beginning at midnight Friday, disrupting government operations days before Christmas.

One option that has been circulating on Capitol Hill would be to simply approve government funding at existing levels, without a boost for the border, as a stopgap measure to kick the issue into the new Congress next month. The chairman of the Appropriations Committee, Sen. Richard Shelby, R-Ala., confirmed late Tuesday his office was preparing legislation to keep government funded, likely into February. The White House preference was for a longer-term package, although the conversation remained fluid and Trump has been known to quickly change course, said a person familiar with the negotiations but not authorized to discuss them by name.

"We want to know what can pass," Sanders said at a press briefing. "Once they make a decision and they put something on the table, we'll make a determination on whether

we'll move forward."

She also said the president "has asked every agency to look and see if they have money that can be used."

The turn of events kick-started negotiations that had been almost nonexistent since last week's televised meeting at the White House, when Trump neither accepted nor rejected the Democrats' offer. They had proposed keeping funding at current levels of \$1.3 billion for border security fencing and other improvements, but not for the wall.

The Senate's top Republican and Democratic leaders began negotiating new proposals and talks were expected to continue.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said he was confident there would not be a government shutdown. McConnell said a stopgap measure could be approved, though he suggested that House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, who is poised to become House speaker when the Democrats take control Jan. 3, would not want to saddle the new year with a budget brawl.

"If I were in her shoes, I would rather not be dealing with this year's business next year," McConnell said.

Pelosi and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer have made it clear they are not interested in funding Trump's border wall.

During a meeting earlier Tuesday on Capitol Hill, McConnell had proposed \$1.6 billion for border fencing, as outlined in a bipartisan Senate bill, plus an additional \$1 billion that Trump could use on the border, according to a senior Democratic aide unauthorized to speak about the private meeting.

Democratic leaders immediately spurned the proposal. Schumer called McConnell

to reject it.

"We cannot accept the offer they made of a billion-dollar slush fund for the president to implement his very wrong immigration policies," Pelosi told reporters. "So that won't happen."

Democrats also rejected the administration's idea of shifting money from other accounts to pay for Trump's wall. Schumer said there will be no wall money, "plain and simple."

Pelosi will probably be able to quickly approve a longer-term measure to keep government running in the new year. She called it a "good sign" that the White House appeared to be backing off its demands.

The White House showed its willingness to budge as it became apparent the president does not have support in Congress for funding the wall at the \$5 billion level. Sanders said Tuesday there are "other ways" to secure the funding.

"At the end of the day, we don't want to shut down the government," Sanders said on Fox News Channel. "We want to shut down the border from illegal immigration."

Sanders pointed to the Senate's bipartisan appropriation measure for the Department of Homeland Security, which provides \$26 billion, including \$1.6 billion for fencing and other barriers. It was approved by the committee in summer on a bipartisan vote.

"That's something that we would be able to support," she said, as long as it's coupled with other funding.

But House Democrats largely reject the Senate's bill because it includes 65 miles of additional fencing along the Rio Grande Valley in Texas.

Trump had campaigned on the promise that Mexico would pay for the wall. Mexico has refused.

many educational institutions to make sure the products they sell on campus are ethically manufactured, said that "forced labor of any kind is a severe violation of university codes of conduct."

It's against U.S. law to import products of forced labor. Customs and Border Protection said it is part of its mission to enforce "both laws to protect individuals from forced labor and our Nation's economy from businesses profiting from this form of modern slavery."

produced by forced labor by a U.S. company."

The AP tracked shipments from a factory in a detention camp in China's Xinjiang region to Badger Sportswear in North Carolina. The company ships clothing to universities, colleges and schools around the United States.

Following the reports, Badger said that it had suspended business with the Chinese supplier and was investigating.

The Washington-based Workers Rights Consortium, which has agreements with

## US reviews report of imports from forced labor in China camp

BEIJING (AP)—The U.S. government said Tuesday that it is reviewing reports of forced labor at a Chinese detention camp where ethnic minorities must give up their religion and language and may be subject to political indoctrination.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection said in a statement that reporting by The Associated Press and other media "for the first time appears to link the internment camps identified in Western China to the importation of goods

# Nation

## Yemeni mom wins travel ban waiver to see dying son in US

A Yemeni mother on Tuesday won her fight for a waiver from the Trump administration's travel ban that would allow her to go to California to see her dying 2-year-old son.

Shaima Swileh planned to fly to San Francisco on Wednesday after the U.S. State Department granted her a visa, said Basim Elkarra of the Council on American-Islamic Relations in Sacramento, whose lawyers sued this week.

The boy's father, Ali Hassan, is a U.S. citizen who brought their son, Abdullah, to California in the fall to get treatment for a genetic brain disorder after the boy's health worsened.

Swileh and the boy had been living in Egypt, and she had hoped to accompany them but was not given a visa to enter the United States. Citizens from Yemen and four other mostly Muslim countries, along with North Korea and Venezuela, are restricted from coming to the United States under the travel ban enacted under President Donald Trump.

As Swileh and her husband fought for a waiver, their son's health declined. Last week, doctors at UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital in Oakland put him on life support.

"I am emailing them, crying, and telling them that my son is dying," Hassan said in an interview with The Sacramento Bee newspaper.

## Border impasse ends as US lets 6 Hondurans apply for asylum

TIJUANA, Mexico (AP)—The asylum claims of six Hondurans were accepted for processing Tuesday, ending a 17-hour standoff involving U.S. authorities, the migrants and two U.S. lawmakers supporting them on a tiny piece of American soil at the country's border with Mexico.

The Hondurans had camped out in an area of San Diego's Otay Mesa border crossing past where pedestrians pass a wall plaque delineating the international boundary but before they reach inspectors. They were joined by U.S. Reps. Nanette Barragan and Jimmy Gomez, both California Democrats.

"They're on U.S. soil, and they're basically being blocked for presenting themselves for asylum," Barragan said in a video posted on Twitter that she said was



This recent but undated photo, released Monday, Dec. 17, 2018, by the Council on American-Islamic Relations in Sacramento, Calif., shows Ali Hassan kissing his dying 2-year-old son Abdullah in a Sacramento hospital.

Hassan told reporters he wants his wife to be able to kiss their son one last time.

"This will allow us to mourn with dignity," he said in a statement provided by the Council on American-Islamic Relations.

Hassan was losing hope of getting her a waiver and was considering pulling his son off life support to end his suffering, but then a hospital social worker reached out to the council, which sued Monday, Elkarra said.

He said Swileh lost months

with her child over what amounted to unnecessary delays and red tape.

State Department spokesman Robert Palladino called it "a very sad case, and our thoughts go out to this family at this time, at this trying time."

He said he could not comment on the family's situation but that in general cases are handled individually, and U.S. officials try to facilitate legitimate travel to the United States while protecting national security.

taken around 2:40 a.m.

The asylum seekers arrived at the crossing Monday afternoon, and after several hours U.S. inspectors agreed to process claims of eight unaccompanied children and a mother and her five children, attorneys said. Six more were initially not allowed into the country and sat on blankets throughout a chilly night before authorities agreed Tuesday to process their claims.

"Children are sick, they're crying, they've had to use the bathroom," Nicole Ramos, an attorney at Al Otro Lado, a legal services organization working on behalf of the migrants, said Monday night. "We've had to get blankets and food for them."

Customs and Border Protection did not comment on the status of the Honduran asylum seekers, but officials

said claims are processed as quickly as possible.

The impasse highlighted a U.S. practice to limit entry for asylum seekers at official crossings when they are at full capacity, which it calls "metering" or "queue management." Authorities emphatically deny they are turning away asylum seekers—something that is prohibited under U.S. and international law—and say they are simply asking them to temporarily wait in Mexico.

CBP says a surge in asylum claims has strained resources. The number of people expressing fear of returning to their home countries—the initial step toward asylum—jumped 67 percent at Mexico border in the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30, rising to 92,959 claims from 55,584 the previous year.



# Asia

## ASIAN BRIEFS

### Death toll in Mumbai fire rises to 8

**NEW DELHI** (AP)—The death toll from a fire that swept through a Mumbai hospital has risen to eight, officials said Tuesday. Dozens of firefighters rushed to the Monday afternoon fire at the government-run ESIC Kamgar Hospital, but smoke engulfed the entire five-story building. At least eight people died in the fire, a police official said Tuesday, speaking on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media. Among the dead was an infant just a few months old, Indian news reports said. More than 140 people were rescued, with the hospital's patients transferred to a series of nearby hospitals. Deadly fires are common in India, where building inspections are often very lax. "We still don't know the cause yet, but an inquiry is going on," Mumbai Mayor Vishwanath Mahadeshwar told reporters at the scene, vowing that any officials responsible for the fire would be punished.

### Indonesian defendant suffers setback in Kim murder trial

**SHAH ALAM, Malaysia** (AP)—An Indonesian woman due to begin her defense next month in her trial for the murder in Malaysia of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's half brother suffered a setback Tuesday when a judge rejected her bid to secure statements given to police by seven witnesses. Siti Aisyah's lawyer, Gooi Soon Seng, said he will appeal the High Court's ruling that the statements were privileged. He said the statements were crucial because most of the witnesses were unreachable. In August, a High Court judge found there was enough evidence to infer that Aisyah and her Vietnamese co-defendant, Doan Thi Huong, along with four missing North Korean suspects, had engaged in a "well-planned conspiracy" to kill Kim Jong Nam. The two young women are accused of smearing VX nerve agent on Kim's face in an airport terminal in Kuala Lumpur on Feb. 13, 2017. They have said they thought they were taking part in a prank for a TV show. They are the only suspects in custody. The four North Korean suspects fled the country the same morning Kim was killed. Aisyah was due to begin testifying on Jan. 7, but Gooi said there will be a delay pending the appeal. He said one of the witnesses, the man who chauffeured Kim to the airport, had died. He said they have managed to interview only two of the seven witnesses offered by prosecutors, while the others couldn't be contacted. As such, what they had told police could help provide a clearer picture of Kim's death, he said. Gooi said Tuesday's ruling would "compromise our case."

### Thai police say sunken ship failed to meet design standards

**BANGKOK** (AP)—Police in Thailand say their investigations found that a boat that sank in July in rough weather off Thailand's southern resort island of Phuket, killing 47 Chinese tourists, didn't meet regulatory standards. The July 5 sinking of the Phoenix was one of Thailand's worst recent tourism-related disasters. Three of the boat's operators have been charged with negligence causing death—which carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison—and a Marine Department official is one of at least two other people facing criminal charges. Another boat also carrying Chinese tourists sank on the same day but those on board were rescued. Immigration Police chief Maj. Gen. Surachate Hakpam said additional suspects are under investigation. The accidents caused outrage in China about Thai safety procedures. Thai authorities promised justice for the victims, especially because of concern that the disaster could affect the tourism industry. More than 9.8 million Chinese visited Thailand in 2017, accounting for the biggest share of the 35.38 million foreign tourists. Surachate told reporters Monday night that according to their investigations and examination of the vessel's blueprints, the boat had only one watertight door instead of the recommended four, and that it didn't have "marine windows" that could be broken open in case of an emergency.

### Pakistan, Saudis, UAE join US-Taliban talks

**ISLAMABAD** (AP)—The Taliban held another round of talks with U.S. officials on Monday, this time in the United Arab Emirates and also involving Saudi, Pakistani and Emirati representatives, part of the latest attempt to bring a negotiated end to Afghanistan's 17-year war. Taliban spokesman Zabihullah Mujahid offered few details of the daylong meeting except to say "discussions were held with the American side over the end to the invasion of

Afghanistan." He dismissed Afghan media reports that Afghan government representatives, who are in the United Arab Emirates, had met with the Taliban. "There is no plan to meet the Kabul administration," Mujahid said. "There is no possibility of the presence of the Kabul administration in the meeting, which the Islamic Emirate will attend." The Taliban refer to their movement as the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan, and dismiss the Kabul government as a U.S. puppet. Mujahid said the meetings were continuing. Khalil Minawi, director of Afghanistan's state-run Bakhtar news agency, earlier tweeted that officials from the United States, Afghanistan, Pakistan and the UAE held meetings Sunday ahead of "the Pakistani-sponsored U.S.-Taliban meeting." While Afghan officials did not attend Monday's meeting with the Taliban, their presence in the UAE is a significant step in efforts to get the two sides talking. The Taliban have consistently refused to hold direct talks with the Afghan government, insisting they will only negotiate with the U.S.

### British Airways to resume flights to Pakistan in June

**ISLAMABAD** (AP)—British Airways announced Tuesday it will resume flights to Pakistan in June, a decade after suspending them in the wake of the suicide truck bombing of the Marriott Hotel in Islamabad that killed dozens. In a statement, Robert Williams, the BA head of sales for Asia-Pacific and the Middle East, said it was going to be "exciting to be flying between Islamabad and Heathrow" again. BA said flights would resume on June 2, 2019, three times a week and that "tickets are on sale from today." Thomas Drew, Britain's top diplomat in Pakistan, said the resumption of flights was excellent news and would "give a particular boost to our growing trade and investment links." Pakistan's government and its military also welcomed the announcement. Maj. Gen. Asif Ghafoor, the military spokesman, said the development was one of the dividends of the decades-long struggle of the Pakistani nation and security forces to restore peace and stability in the country that are on the way. BA suspended its operations shortly after the Sept. 20, 2008, suicide truck bombing devastated the Marriott in Islamabad, killing at least 54 people and wounding more than 270.

# World

## 'Russia has enough missiles'

**MOSCOW** (AP)—President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday rejected the U.S. claim that Russia developed a new cruise missile in violation of a key nuclear treaty, arguing that Russia has no need for such a land-based weapon because it already has similar missiles on its ships and aircraft.

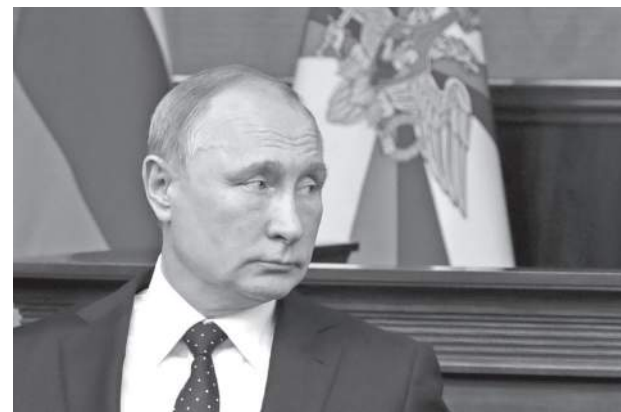
Washington warned this month it would suspend its obligations under the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty (INF) in 60 days if Russia did not return to full compliance. The U.S. claims the 9M729 cruise missile breaches the INF, which bans all land-based cruise and ballistic missiles with a range of 500 to 5,500 kilometers (300 to 3,400 miles.)

Moscow has repeatedly denied the accusation. Speaking to Russia's top military brass Tuesday, Putin rejected the U.S. claim of developing a land-based cruise missile, saying Russia now has similar air- and sea-launched weapons to do the job.

Putin said the Russian military has successfully tested air-launched Kh-101 and sea-launched Kalibr cruise missiles with a range of 4,500 kilometers (2,790 miles) in combat in Syria.

"It has probably made our partners worry, but it doesn't violate the INF treaty," Putin said.

Putin said the treaty signed



AP  
Russian President Vladimir Putin attends a meeting with the top military staff in the Russian Defense Ministry's headquarters in Moscow, Russia, Tuesday, Dec. 18, 2018.

by U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev didn't limit sea- and air-launched cruise missiles, which the Soviet Union didn't have at the time and the United States did in significant numbers.

The Russian president argued that the pact represented "unilateral disarmament" for the Soviet Union, adding: "God only knows why the Soviet leadership did it."

He emphasized that with Russian strategic bombers and navy ships now armed with long-range cruise missiles, it makes the development of similar land-based weapons redundant.

"It makes no difference whatsoever if we have a Kalibr-armed submarine or aircraft carrying missiles or similar weapons ashore,"

he said. "We can strike any targets within the range of 4,500 kilometers from the territory of Russia."

Putin added, however, that Russia could easily build such land-based missiles if the U.S. opts out of the INF Treaty, which he described as a key stabilizing factor.

"If we have similar air- and sea-launched systems, it wouldn't be that difficult for us to do some research and development to put them on land if needed," he said.

Putin added that Russia also has other new weapons that aren't banned by the INF, such as the air-launched Kinzhal hypersonic missile and the Avangard hypersonic glide vehicle, saying that they have significantly bolstered Russia's military capability.

## Cuba eliminates gay marriage language from new constitution

**HAVANA** (AP)—Cuba's government said Tuesday that language promoting the legalization of gay marriage will be removed from the draft of a new constitution after widespread popular rejection of the idea.

Gay rights advocates had proposed eliminating the description of marriage as a union of a man and woman, changing it to the union of "two people ... with absolutely equal rights and obligations."

That change drew protests from evangelical churches and ordinary citizens in months of public meetings on the new constitution.

Cuba's National Assembly announced on Twitter that a powerful commission responsible for revising the constitution has proposed eliminating the language from the new charter "as a way of respecting all opinions."

The constitution would instead be silent on the issue, leaving open the possibility

of a future legalization without specifically promoting it.

The constitutional commission is headed by Communist Party head and former president Raul Castro.

His daughter, Mariela Castro, is a lawmaker known as Cuba's highest-profile advocate for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transsexual rights. Her advocacy has helped rehabilitate Cuba's international image on LG-BTQ rights after the Castro-led communist government sent gay men to work camps in the 1960s. Widespread persecution continued through the 1970s.

While Havana and some other Cuban cities have flourishing gay communities, anti-homosexual attitudes remain deeply rooted among much of the population. Cubans who ordinarily shy from open criticism of the government spoke out in large numbers against the proposed constitutional Article 68 promoting gay

marriage during public consultations on the draft constitution throughout the year.

Cuba's rapidly growing evangelical churches also staked out positions against the article, increasing pressure on a government unused to public pushback.

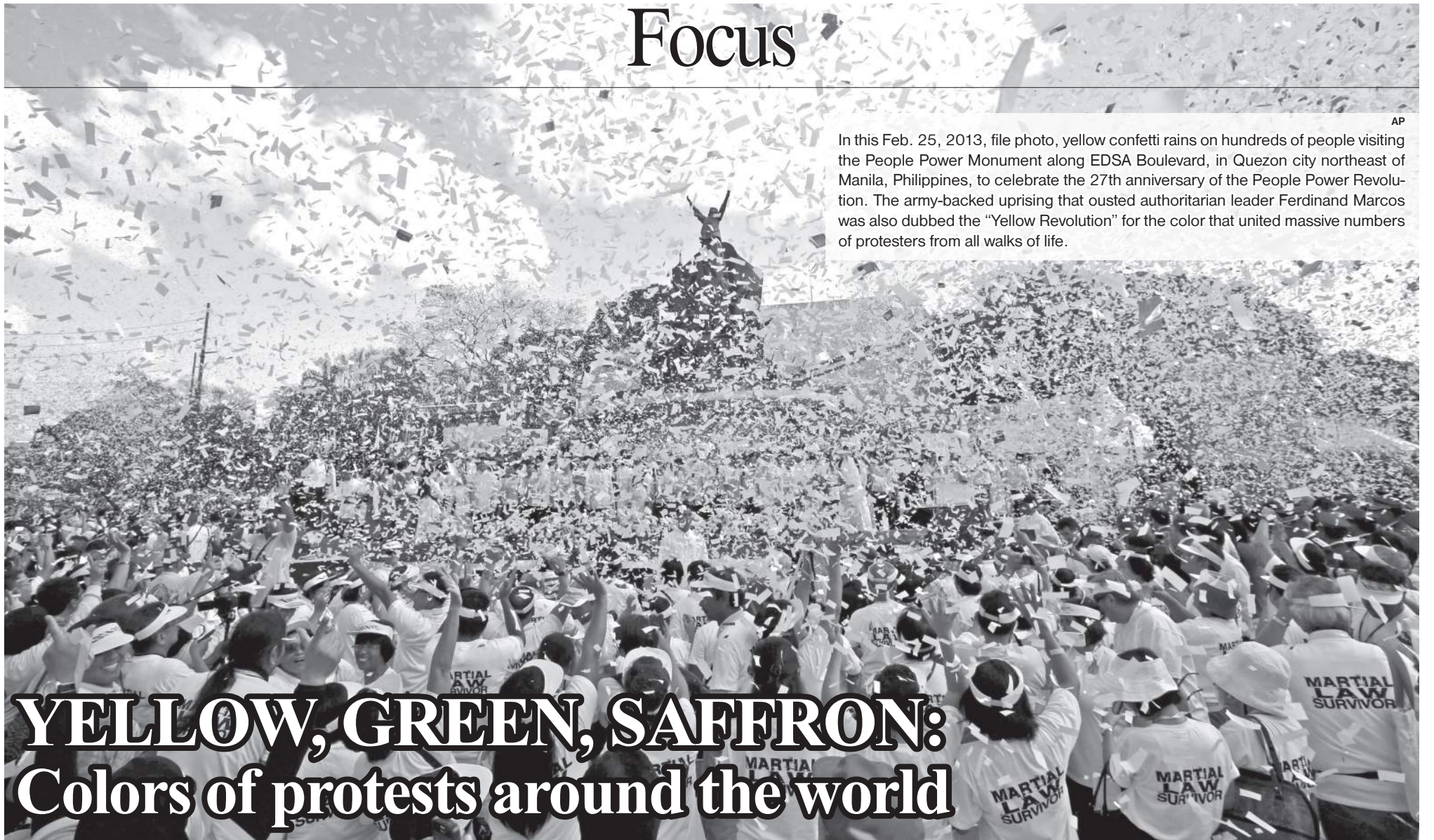
The new charter is expected to be offered for approval at a public referendum in early 2019.

The dropping of the gay marriage language is the third dramatic reversal this month for a government that for decades has issued most laws and regulations with little public debate or insight into the working of the ruling Communist Party.

The government last week eliminated some of the most-disliked sections of new restrictions on entrepreneurs that were met with widespread public criticism. And tough new limits on artistic expression were delayed after protests and complaints from Cuban artists.



# Focus



AP  
In this Feb. 25, 2013, file photo, yellow confetti rains on hundreds of people visiting the People Power Monument along EDSA Boulevard, in Quezon city northeast of Manila, Philippines, to celebrate the 27th anniversary of the People Power Revolution. The army-backed uprising that ousted authoritarian leader Ferdinand Marcos was also dubbed the “Yellow Revolution” for the color that united massive numbers of protesters from all walks of life.

## YELLOW, GREEN, SAFFRON: Colors of protests around the world

**W**hen you’re an activist looking for a way to convey a complex message in a complicated world, you need a hook—something that can command attention across cultures in a memorable and visually arresting way.

So what’s more elemental than associating yourself with a specific color? Just as this month’s demonstrations in France are built around the “yellow vests” that all French drivers must carry in their cars, so, too, have previous movements aligned themselves with specific hues to punch through the static and make a topical statement.

What kind of political movements have built their messages around color in the past?

Here’s a brief review of a few.

### YELLOW VEST PROTESTS, FRANCE 2018

“Yellow vest” protests have gripped France for four weeks, blocking highways from Provence to Normandy and erupting in rioting in Paris. They’ve shaken the country to its core and left President Emmanuel Macron struggling to retain control.

The unifying shade is in fact the fluorescent yellow-green of security vests that all French drivers must carry in their vehicles in case of car trouble. To many protesters, the vests represent an annoying, government-imposed burden—so they co-opted the garment

to broadcast their anger over high taxes and other grievances to the highest levels.

The clusters of high-visibility vests at roadblocks in cities, towns and villages around France act like a beacon to would-be followers of the movement, especially as protests last through the night and the darkest, grayest days of the French year. When demonstrations erupt in violence, the vests also make protesters an easy target for police.

### GREEN ABORTION RIGHTS MOVEMENT, ARGENTINA, 2018

The homeland of Pope Francis was closer than ever this year to legalizing abortion after a wave of demonstrations by women’s rights groups and shifting public opinion. The demonstrators staged wide protests in the streets of Argentina wearing green handkerchiefs that symbolize the abortion rights movement.

Lawmakers in August voted against the bill that would have allowed abortion in the first 14 weeks of pregnancy. But women’s groups across Latin America have vowed to keep fighting for a right to abortion.

### UMBRELLA MOVEMENT, HONG KONG, 2014

The color yellow was closely associated with massive pro-democracy protests known as the Umbrella Movement. Umbrellas used as protection from pepper spray and tear gas gave the movement its name, and a yellow umbrella came to symbolize it.

Supporters wore yellow ribbons, and a huge yellow banner demanding true universal suffrage was hung from Lion Rock, a well-known landmark. Explanations about how yellow came to represent the protests vary, with some tracing it back to early stirrings of democracy in the 1980s, when the color was borrowed from Philippine protesters who had driven out dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

### GREEN MOVEMENT, IRAN 2009

Iran’s largest protests since its 1979 Islamic Revolution grew out of the disputed reelection of hard-line President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. His reformist challenger, Mir-Hossein Mousavi, had picked green for his campaign urging changes within Iran’s theocracy.

Green is a favored color in Islamic tradition. Others linked it to nature. Poet Eghbal Mansourian warmed up the crowd at one Mousavi rally with the verse: “Make our lives green again, make it rain again, make us hope again.”

Those protesting Ahmadinejad’s win amid widespread allegations of vote rigging adopted the color. Security forces ultimately crushed the demonstrations in violence that saw dozens killed, thousands arrested and others tortured in prison.

### THE SAFFRON REVOLUTION, MYANMAR 2007

Buddhist monks were at the

forefront of mass protests in 2007 against the country’s military government, and the color of their robes gave the movement its popular Saffron Revolution name.

The government’s decision to raise fuel prices triggered the demonstrations, and at one point, as many as 10,000 monks were reported to have taken part in an anti-government march in Mandalay, in the country’s spiritual heartland. The protests were crushed violently.

The population of Myanmar, formerly known as Burma, is about 90% Buddhist, and the tradition of political activism among the country’s monks dates back to at least the 1920s, when they were closely involved with the movement that sought colonial Burma’s independence from Britain.

### YELLOW SHIRTS AND RED SHIRTS, THAILAND 2006

Thailand’s Yellow Shirts and Red Shirts represent two opposing political factions: respectively, opponents of former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, and his supporters.

The Yellow Shirts derived their identity from the color associated with the late King Bhumibol Adulyadej. Royal celebrations for his 60th anniversary on the throne coincided with protests to forced Thaksin out of office for alleged abuse of power, and protest leaders adopted the yellow shirt movement

as their own.

The Red Shirts rose in response after Thaksin was ousted in a September 2006 military coup. Red is the color of the Thai flag representing ‘nation,’ one of Thailand’s so-called three pillars, along with religion (represented by white) and monarchy (blue).

### ORANGE REVOLUTION, UKRAINE 2004

Orange was the campaign color of Ukraine’s pro-Western presidential candidate Viktor Yushchenko in the 2004 presidential election. His supporters challenged the victory of his pro-Russia rival in the runoff vote and took to the streets in what was dubbed the Orange Revolution.

Massive protests forced the authorities to annul the result and order a new election that Yushchenko won. Russia blamed the West for supporting the protests.

### BLUE STATES, RED STATES, UNITED STATES 2000

The notion of “blue states” and “red states” in the United States emerged during the aftermath of the contested 2000 election when TV networks used frequent on-air maps to show the breakdown between states going for Texas Gov. George W. Bush and Vice President Al Gore.

Though no specific decision was made to render Republicans red and Democrats blue—and, in fact, the opposite had been used some-

times previously—the two colors of the American flag emerged as symbols of their parties that year.

Today, nearly two decades later, talk of red and blue states and even “Red America” and “Blue America” continues, and the relationship between the parties and their respective hues has grown even closer, to the point where some male politicians in the two parties avoid wearing ties in colors that symbolize their opposition.

### YELLOW REVOLUTION, PHILIPPINES 1986

When Philippine opposition leader Benigno “Ninoy” Aquino Jr. flew home on Aug. 21, 1983 from years of self-exile, pro-democracy activists in yellow shirts, dresses, hats and ribbons turned up at Manila’s airport and his residence to welcome him.

The color was inspired by the 1973 top-selling single “Tie a Yellow Ribbon Round the Ole Oak Tree,” a song about an ex-prisoner wondering if he’s still welcome back home.

Aquino was gunned down at the airport, and the brazen assassination ignited massive protests that culminated in the largely nonviolent “people power” revolt and ousted authoritarian leader Ferdinand Marcos three years later.

The army-backed uprising was also dubbed the “Yellow Revolution” for the color that united massive numbers of protesters from all walks of life. (AP)



# Environment

## Sierra snowpack could be greatly reduced, study says

By **DEBORAH NETBURN**  
LOS ANGELES TIMES

**LOS ANGELES**—The California snow season, which started this month, is off to a good start.

A series of December storms covered the Sierra Nevada with heavy snow, leaving the snowpack at 106 percent of average, according to the state's snow survey.

But a new study suggests that Californians won't always be able to rely on melting snow to trickle down the mountains each spring, filling state reservoirs for use over the long, dry summers.

According to a new report, the size of the Sierra snowpack could shrink by as much as 79 percent by the century's end if humans don't limit greenhouse emissions.

"We are currently relying on snow to store the precipitation we get in the winter for use dur-

ing the summer," said Andrew Jones, a climate scientist at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory in Berkeley, who worked on the study. "In the future, we'll have to radically restructure the way we manage water in California."

Experts estimate that the Sierra Nevada snowpack provides about one-third of the state's fresh water each year.

In the new work, published last month in the journal *Geophysical Research Letters*, scientists looked specifically at how future climate conditions could affect the snowpack directly upstream of 10 of the state's largest reservoirs.

Using five climate models that assume continued high global greenhouse gas emissions, the researchers found that on average, the snowpack could face a 54 percent reduction in volume in the next 20 to 40 years and a 79 percent reduction in the next 60 to

80 years. However, not all regions of the state would be affected equally by this loss of winter water storage.

Reservoirs in the northern part of the state would be more affected than those in the central and southern regions, the authors said. That's because the Sierra Nevada is not quite as high in Northern California as it is in other parts of the state.

"As the world is warming, the snowline is moving up the mountains," Jones said. "That means that lower elevations will be affected more quickly by this reduction than those in higher elevations."

The snowpack above the state's northern reservoirs such as Shasta, Oroville and Folsom is expected to shrink by 59.5 percent in 20 to 40 years and by 83.8 percent by the end of the century.

Reservoirs in the central part of the state could see re-

ductions of 48.4 percent by midcentury and 73.4 percent by the end of the century, according to the report. In the southern regions, the snowpack could shrink by 48.8 percent by midcentury and 75.6 percent by the end of the century, the authors said.

That doesn't mean less precipitation will fall up north in the future, but that it will come as rain rather than snow.

That's a problem for water managers trying to balance both water storage and flood control.

"Under our current system, we would have to let much of that rain flow to the ocean because we wouldn't be able to store it in the reservoirs," Jones said.

The study also revealed that the time of year when the snowpack starts to melt could move up by as much as four weeks by 2099.

Scientists now expect the

snowpack to reach its peak at the beginning of April. But years from now, the peak would probably be at the beginning of March, the authors found.

"That means that not only will there be less storage of snow, but also the time period over which we need to store water is longer," Jones said. "The summer period is essentially growing."

The new work is not the first to warn that the size of the Sierra Nevada snowpack will probably be drastically reduced in the future, or that the melting season could start earlier in the year.

"The snowpack literature is converging pretty much to the same general conclusions," Alan Rhoades, a Berkeley Lab postdoctoral fellow and the study's lead author, said in a statement.

However, the study is among the first to break down how global climate change

will affect water flow in distinct regions of California.

"Scientists created climate models to understand global climate systems, but now people are asking what is going to happen in my local watershed," Jones said.

It should also be noted that the authors don't expect the march toward a smaller snowpack to be a straight line, but rather a winding road.

The winter of 2016-17 created one of the largest snowpacks in California history, loading reservoirs and rivers for months, even to the point of flooding some communities. Overall, the snowpack was 163 percent of average, which, when it melts, equals 46 inches of rain.

That record relieved some water deficits the state had been suffering during a years-long drought. Then, after last season, the snowpack went back to below-average levels.

TNS  
Snow blankets the Sierra Nevada crest north of Bishop along U.S. Highway 395 on Jan. 6, 2017 in Round Valley, Calif.

## New Florida manatee population estimate hits 7,000 to 10,000 but more than 700 have died this year

By **Craig Pittman**  
TAMPA BAY TIMES

**ST. PETERSBURG, Fla.**—More manatees than ever have been swimming around in Florida's waterways, scientists said Tuesday, although more than 700 have died this year, mostly from red tide and being hit by boats.

A new study by biologists with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission and the U.S. Geological Survey used data collected during aerial surveys in 2015 and 2016, combined with statistical estimation methods, to come up with a new estimate for the state's manatee population. It's between 7,520 and 10,280, the study found.

That's a considerable in-

crease from the 5,680 to 8,110 manatees estimated by a previous study using data from 2011-2012. But in their study, the scientists warned against drawing any conclusions about manatees experiencing a population boom.

So much uncertainty is involved in making their estimates that "we're definitely not encouraging people to make any statements of a population increase," said lead author Jeff Hostetler, a research scientist at the Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute in St. Petersburg. Their findings are "not inconsistent with a population increase, but it's not certain," he explained.

But in a news release about the study's findings, state officials contended that the new



TNS  
Manatees find refuge in the warm waters of Blue Spring located at Blue Spring State Park, Orange City, Fla., in a 2015 file image. More manatees than ever have been swimming around in Florida's waterways, scientists said on Tuesday, Dec. 18, 2018, although more than 700 have died this year.

estimate "contributes to the conclusion that conservation measures ... continue to create an environment that allows the

manatee population to recover."

The study is the first new estimate of manatee abundance in five years. Hostetler

said scientists may try to repeat the study in 2020 or 2021, but that's not guaranteed at this point.

Manatees were on the original endangered species list drawn up in 1967 because of the threats they faced from speeding boats, water pollution and loss of habitat. A lawsuit filed in 2000 by a coalition of environmental groups against state and federal wildlife agencies led to settlements requiring new boat speed zones and manatee sanctuaries. Biologists have credited those measures with spurring an increase in the population.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service knocked manatees down to "threatened" instead of "endangered" last year, although a record number of

manatees were killed by boaters just the year before. For the first time ever, more than 100 manatees had died after being run over by boaters.

So far this year, 117 manatees have been run over by speeding boats — up from 102 in 2016 and 104 last year.

Meanwhile the lingering red tide algae bloom has been blamed for the deaths of 207 manatees this year. Of those 91 have been conclusively linked to the red tide toxins, and another 116 are still awaiting laboratory test results but show the symptoms of being poisoned by the algae.

Hostetler said scientists are now working on a method of estimating the impact to the population of such a large die-off of the species.



## Life&Style

# With 'Bumblebee,' John Cena finds his stride in Hollywood

LOS ANGELES (AP)—John Cena doesn't believe in ego. How could he when he's used to tens of thousands of WWE fans chanting "John Cena sucks" every time he walks out to the ring?

It's a philosophy that's helped him survive both the demands of professional wrestling, where he was never supposed to be a success, and now Hollywood, where he's made a miraculous comeback from some terrible films in the earlier 2000s. In the past three years, Cena has become a reliable highlight of whatever project he's in, whether as a boyfriend who bares it all in "Trainwreck," as an overprotective father to a teenager in this year's "Blockers," or even as a military man with some great one-liners in a big budget Transformers movie like "Bumblebee," which hits theaters Friday.

"I'm not afraid to fall on my face, I'm not afraid to look ridiculous," Cena said on a recent afternoon in Los Angeles. "My ego lies with the moviegoer...I want to entertain folks. I want to make people happy."

And Cena is finally achieving that goal in films after a rocky start. Up until a few years ago, Cena's Rotten Tomatoes scores for forgettable and generical-



This image released by Paramount Pictures shows John Cena as Agent Burns, left, and John Ortiz as Dr. Powell in a scene from "Bumblebee." AP

ly-titled action pics like "12 Rounds," "The Marine" and "Legendary" barely broke 30 percent. But ever the athlete, he didn't crumble under the weight of negative reviews, he learned from it.

"My heart wasn't in them. I wanted to be somewhere else. I did those movies because it

was good for a business model," Cena said. "What I learned from that is do what you love."

And he got his chance with the 2015 Amy Schumer relationship comedy "Trainwreck," which, following a divorce, he found he "totally related to." That breakout role as the sort-of boyfriend of

Schumer's character put him on the map as not only novelty casting, but a veritable talent as well, leading to roles in "Sisters," "Daddy's Home 2" and "Blockers." And now there's "Bumblebee," his biggest and, at 97 percent on Rotten Tomatoes, highest-rated movie yet.

Cena wasn't looking for

a franchise, or an action film to do when the script for "Bumblebee" came across his desk. He didn't even care much about Transformers. But then he read it and found a sweet story about a misfit teenage girl (played by Hailee Steinfeld) and a robot that was more E.T. than Michael Bay,

and decided it was something he wanted to do.

"I was like 'I'll be Bumblebee's spare tire, I don't even care,'" Cena said. "I wanted to do something in the movie."

He and director Travis Knight settled on Agent Burns, who might have the dressings of a cartoon villain, but also has some surprises, and humor up his sleeve. Steinfeld marveled at how prepared Cena was every day and his "infectious energy."

In all of his films, Cena considers himself at the service of the story and the director.

"I became successful in WWE by always learning and evolving. I believe that the people around me are smarter than me," he said. "Same thing in movies. I never watch playback. I never give feedback. I take feedback."

It's something of a director's dream to have someone so open to constructive criticism.

"I love him. He is so coachable. He would do anything I asked him. And I'm saying anything," said "Blockers" director Kay Cannon. "If there was a time where he felt like he didn't give what I wanted, he would text or call or check-in and apologize, like, 'I'm so sorry, I'll do better next time.' He's very much an athlete."

## 'Laverne & Shirley' star, 'Big' director Penny Marshall dies

NEW YORK (AP)—Penny Marshall, who indelibly starred in the top-rated sitcom "Laverne & Shirley" before becoming the trailblazing director of smash-hit big-screen comedies such as "Big" and "A League of Their Own," has died. She was 75.

Michelle Bega, a spokeswoman for the Marshall family, said Tuesday that Marshall died in her Los Angeles home on Monday night due to complications from diabetes. Marshall earlier fought lung cancer, which went into remission in 2013. "Our family is heartbroken," the Marshall family said in a statement.

In "Laverne & Shirley," among television's biggest hits for much of its eight-season run between 1976-1983, the nasal-voiced, Bronx-born Marshall starred as Laverne DeFazio alongside Cindy Williams as a pair of blue-collar roommates toiling on the assembly line of a Milwaukee brewery. A spinoff



Marshall

### Tom Hanks, Rob Reiner and more stars mourn Penny Marshall

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Celebrities offer their thanks, remembrances and condolences on the death of actress-director Penny Marshall, who died Monday at 75.

"I loved Penny. I grew up with her. She was born with a great gift. She was born with a funnybone and the instinct of how to use it. I was very lucky to have lived with her and her funnybone. I will miss her."—Rob Reiner, who was married to Marshall from 1971 to 1981, via Twitter.

"Goodbye, Penny. Man, did we laugh a lot! Wish we still could. Love you. Hanx."—Tom Hanks on Twitter.

"She was funny & so smart. She made the transi-

tion from sitcom star to A List movie director with ease & had a major impact on both mediums. All that & always relaxed, funny & totally unpretentious. I was lucky to have known & worked with her."—Ron Howard on Twitter.

"I am absolutely heartbroken."—Rosie O'Donnell, in an emailed statement.

"Thank you, Penny Marshall. For the trails you blazed. The laughs you gave. The hearts you warmed."—Ava Duvernay, via Twitter.

"I first met Penny one month after having arriving here in LA. I was a guest star on a TV pilot she was working on. The next time we worked together was on that iconic episode of 'Happy Days.' She was so inventive, so funny and so warm. She

chance, we'll take it/ Read us any rule, we'll break it") foreshadowed Marshall's own path as a pioneering female filmmaker in the male-

brought her own unique brand of humor to what was on the written page."—Henry Winkler, in an emailed statement.

"Thank you for what you contributed to us girls. Grateful to have worked with you. Rest well you great Broad!!!"—Viola Davis on Twitter.

"Penny will be missed. May she Rest in Peace."—Robert De Niro, via emailed statement.

"Yesterday I held a Golden Gloves award from the 1930's, given to me by Penny Marshall. Hadn't seen it in years. Then today's news... Penny told me the story of Jim Braddock, which became the movie Cinderella Man. She was kind, she was crazy, so talented and she loved movies."—Russell Crowe, via Twitter.

dominated movie business.

"Almost everyone had a theory about why 'Laverne & Shirley' took off," Marshall wrote in her 2012 memoir

"My Mother Was Nuts." "I thought it was simply because Laverne and Shirley were poor and there were no poor people on TV, but there were plenty of them sitting at home and watching TV."

Marshall directed several episodes of "Laverne & Shirley," which her older brother, the late filmmaker-producer Garry Marshall, created. Those episodes helped launch Marshall as a filmmaker. When Whoopi Goldberg clashed with director Howard Zieff, she brought in Marshall to direct "Jumpin' Jack Flash," the 1986 comedy starring Goldberg.

"Jumpin' Jack Flash" did fair business, but Marshall's next film, "Big," was a major success, making her the first woman to direct a film that grossed more than \$100 million. The 1988 comedy, starring Tom Hanks, is about a 12-year-old boy who wakes up in the body of a 30-year-old New York City man. The film, which earned Hanks an Oscar nomination, grossed \$151 million worldwide, or about \$320 million accounting for inflation.

The honor meant only so much to the typically self-

deprecating Marshall. "They didn't give ME the money," Marshall later joked to The New Yorker.

Marshall reteamed with Hanks for "A League of Their Own," the 1992 comedy about the women's professional baseball league begun during World War II, starring Geena Davis, Madonna and Rosie O'Donnell. That, too, crossed \$100 million, making \$107.5 million domestically.

More than any other films, "A League of Their Own" and "Big" ensured Marshall's stamp on the late '80s, early '90s. The piano dance scene in FAO Schwartz in "Big" became iconic. Hanks' reprimand from "A League of Their Own"—"There's no crying in baseball!"—remains quoted on baseball diamonds everywhere.

On Tuesday, Marshall's passing was felt across film, television and comedy. "Big" producer James L. Brooks praised her for making "films which celebrated humans" and for her helping hand to young comedians and writers. "To many of us lost ones she was, at the time, the world's greatest den mother."



# Sandra Bullock's Oscars host solution: Call on random actors

## SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

### Olivia Newton-John memoir coming out in US in 2019

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Olivia Newton-John's autobiography, released last fall in her longtime home Australia, comes out in the U.S. in 2019. Gallery Books, an imprint of Simon & Schuster, announced Tuesday that "Don't Stop Believin'" would be published March 12. The book will include a new afterword by the award-winning singer and actress, known for such hits as "Physical" and "I Honestly Love You" and for her starring role in the movie version of "Grease." The 70-year-old said in September that she was again being treated for breast cancer. She was first diagnosed in 1992.

### Romanian-Canadian singer dies after car plunges into Danube

**BUCHAREST, Romania (AP)**—Anca Pop, a Romanian-Canadian singer-songwriter, has died after her car plunged into the Danube River. She was 34. Emergency authorities identified her body after divers found her car late Monday in southwestern Romania. Her sister alerted police after she failed to arrive at the family home Sunday evening. Police said Tuesday they were investigating the death of Pop. Pop's style was a fusion of Balkan and mainstream pop. She had a big following in Japan. She also collaborated with Bosnian musician Goran Bregovic on his "Champagne for Gypsies" album. In 1987, Pop fled communist Romania with her family, crossing the Danube into then-Yugoslavia where they became political refugees. Months later, they

emigrated to Canada. After communism ended, she returned to Romania. This year she caused a stir by revealing she was in a same-sex relationship, in a society which can be intolerant of homosexuality. She is survived by her parents and sister.

### Warrant issued for arrest of 'Schwimmer lookalike' suspect

**LONDON (AP)**—A British judge has issued an arrest warrant for an alleged shoplifter whose striking resemblance to David Schwimmer made international headlines, after he failed to show up for a court appearance. Abdulah Husseni failed to appear in court in Blackpool, northwest England, on Tuesday to face charges of theft and fraud. Husseni's image became world famous after police published surveillance-camera footage of a man carrying a carton of cans from a restaurant in Blackpool. Social-media users noted a strong similarity to Ross Geller, the character played by Schwimmer on "Friends." The actor responded with a Twitter video that showed him scuttling furtively through a convenience store clutching a carton of beer. Schwimmer wrote: "Officers, I swear it wasn't me. As you can see, I was in New York."

### Milan to showcase da Vinci to mark 500 years since his death

**MILAN (AP)**—The Ambrosian Library in Milan is planning a series of exhibitions to commemorate the 500-year anniversary of Leonardo da Vinci's death, including the display of the most important pages of the Renaissance genius' Atlantic Codex. The

library, which has preserved the Codex since 1637, announced Tuesday that it will exhibit 46 of its most famous drawings, which encompass the artist's career from his Florentine youth to his later years in France. The 1,119-page Atlantic Codex is an encyclopedia of technical knowledge from the Renaissance, representing Leonardo's own inventions but his representations of technology as it existed. The commemoration will run from Dec. 18-Sept. 15, and will be broken up into three sections, the first focused on Milan, the second on civil engineering studies and the last on Leonardo's French period.

### Author Alice Walker criticized for support of writer's book

**NEW YORK (AP)**—Pulitzer Prize-winning writer Alice Walker and The New York Times are drawing fire after she praised an author who critics say expresses anti-Semitism and is a conspiracy theorist. In an interview in Sunday's "By The Book" column, the 74-year-old author of "The Color Purple" said David Icke's 1995 book, "And The Truth Shall Set You Free," is on her nightstand. She said "in Icke's books there is the whole of existence, on this planet and several others, to think about." New York Times spokesperson Danielle Rhoades says the column is not a list of recommendations from its editors, and "the subject's answers are a reflection on that person's personal tastes, opinions and judgments." Icke is a British author. Walker declined comment through her publicist.

## NEW YORK

(AP)—Sandra Bullock has an impromptu idea for how to solve the Oscars host problem, and it involves a lot of improvisation.

The Oscar-winning actress told The Associated Press Monday at a screening of her new film "Bird Box" that she thinks random actors should be pulled out of the audience and read what's on the teleprompter to cover a segment of the show.

Organizers "don't even have to tell them it's happening, just put up the teleprompter, and go, 'it's your turn,'" Bullock said. "You're an actor, figure



**Bullock**

it out."

Bullock says it's a genius solution that everyone in the room is perfectly suited to handle. Well, almost everyone—Bullock says she's not attending next year's ceremony, but would participate in her idea if she was.

No host for February's Academy Awards has been announced since Kevin Hart backed out of emcee duties earlier this month over backlash to his old homophobic tweets.

Bullock's idea relied on a bit of improvisation. She told the AP, "I just pulled that out of my butt. It's amazing."

By the end of the red carpet

for "Bird Box," it already had the support of some of Bullock's co-stars.

At a New York screening of her new film "Bird Box," Sandra Bullock has an idea for how to solve the Oscars' host problem: pull random actors out of the audience and make them read what's on the teleprompter. (Dec. 18)

"I don't think we need a host anymore, man. I really believe it should be a show that we just do," Lil Rel Howery said. "Maybe if you can get celebrities to do some really funny sketches instead of one person. Something fun."

Actor BD Wong said if anyone can pull off Bullock's idea, it's her.

## Miss America may be leaving Atlantic City...again

**ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP)**—Miss America may be leaving Atlantic City again.

The Philadelphia Inquirer and Daily News and the Press of Atlantic City report the Miss America Organization is looking for cities around the country interested in hosting the competition.

The newspapers obtained the group's call for proposals from interested cities via a public records request to the Casi-

no Reinvestment Development Authority, whose contract with Miss America has expired.

The authority contributed \$12 million to the organization over the past three years, but it has not reached a deal on Miss America's funding requests for the 2020 and 2021 pageants.

"We have not responded to that," Matt Doherty, the authority's executive director, said. "They're shopping

around for the best opportunities for Miss America."

A request for comment was sent to the Miss America Organization on Tuesday.

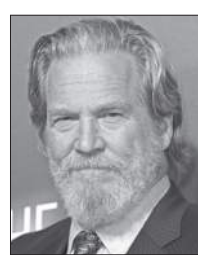
The exit is not assured. The Press of Atlantic City obtained an email from a Miss America official to the state agency in which the organization considers the idea of using venues in Atlantic City other than its current one to possibly reduce expenses.

## Jeff Bridges to receive Cecil B. DeMille Award at Globes

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—Jeff Bridges may have once been considered as one of Hollywood's most underappreciated actors, but next month's Golden Globe Awards will showcase his life and illustrious career next month by bestowing him one of its highest honors.

Bridges will receive the Cecil B. DeMille Award during the 76th annual awards ceremony on Jan. 6, 2019, the Hollywood Foreign Press Association announced Monday. The actor been praised for starring

in films including "Crazy Heart," "True Grit," "Hell or High Water" and "The Big Lebowski," which became a cult classic thanks to his nonchalant, knit-sweater wearing character Jeffrey "The Dude" Lebowski.



**Bridges**

HFFA President Meher Tatna said in a statement the Golden Globe winner has "captured hearts and minds" of audiences worldwide.

Bridges, 69, won a Globe

in 2010 for best actor for his role in "Crazy Heart," when he remarked at the time during his acceptance speech about "chipping away" at his underappreciated status. He went on to win an Academy Award that year,

and also received previous Globe nominations for his performances in "Starman," "The Fisher King," "Contender" and "Hell or High Water."

## Widower ready to live alone is pained to leave aunt behind

**DEAR ABBY:** I am a 61-year-old widower. A year ago I faced a bleak future and expressed a desire to kill myself. My cousin in another state, whom I hadn't seen since childhood, invited me to move in with him and his mother—my late mother's sister.

I now have plans for the future, which include returning to the state I left. The thing is, my cousin resolves disputes with his fists. I know that when I move, my aunt will want to come with me. My aunt is sweet, but she's not my intellectual equal.

Frankly, I prefer to be alone in my home when I move. I'll want cats; she's allergic. She smokes; I don't. The job I want will have me on the road for days at a time. While it would be nice to have someone in the house while I'm away, I'd rather have it be empty than have her there.

I'm sorry her only child is abusive, but am I really the solution? (Both mother and son are twice divorced. They have only each other.) Moving is about a year away, but this dilemma bothers me. I don't want to abandon her, but I don't want to be her savior, either. When it's time to relocate, what can I tell her?

MULLING IT OVER IN MISSISSIPPI

**DEAR MULLING:** Start talking privately with your aunt and impress upon her that no one—including her

son—has the right to physically or emotionally abuse her. Encourage her to call the National Domestic Violence Hotline (the toll-free number is 800-799-7233) and talk to someone there.

I'm sorry you didn't mention who is supporting whom, but she should not remain in a home where her safety may be threatened. And if her son raises a hand to her in your presence, you shouldn't hesitate to call 911. If he does it when you're not around, impress upon her that she must call.

**DEAR ABBY:** I recently received an email from my ex-husband, who lives in the same state as my daughter. (I am remarried.) In it he asked me to agree to a budget he has given my daughter for her upcoming wedding. There was no discussion with me regarding the amount.

Abby, he gave her a budget of \$100,000 and expects me to pay half! When I emailed him back and asked how he arrived at such a crazy number, he responded that his brother had spent that amount on his two daughters. Wow!!!

I said absolutely not, the number was flat-out ridiculous, and he should never have promised that figure to begin with, let alone without consulting me. Your thoughts?

NOW THE BAD ONE

## DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



**DEAR "BAD ONE":** I think the same way you do. He should never have promised any amount of money without first discussing it with you. I also think it is time to bring your daughter and her fiancé into the conversation. Many modern couples split the cost of their wedding between themselves, so don't feel defensive when you do it.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby - Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.



Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



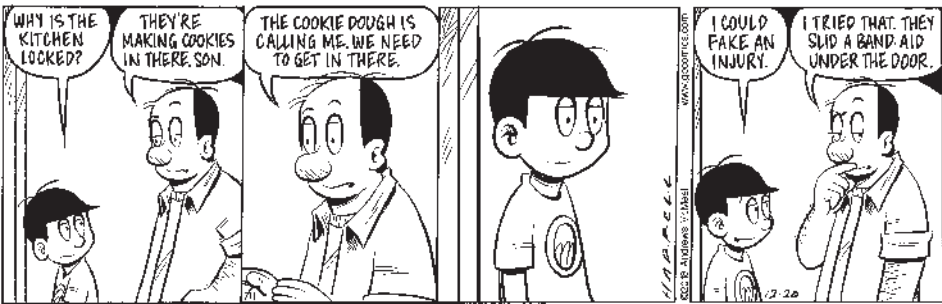
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



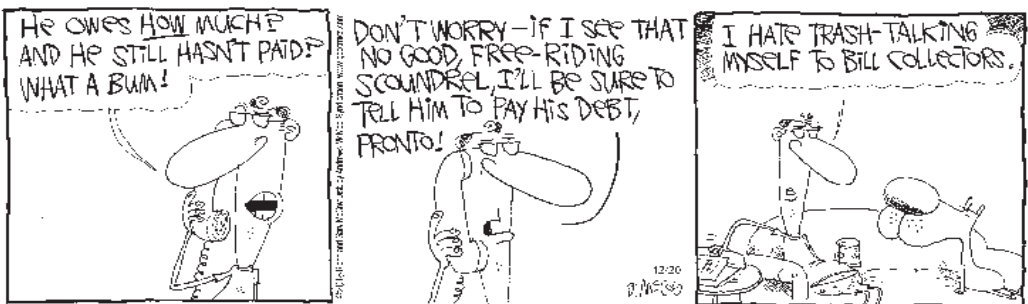
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



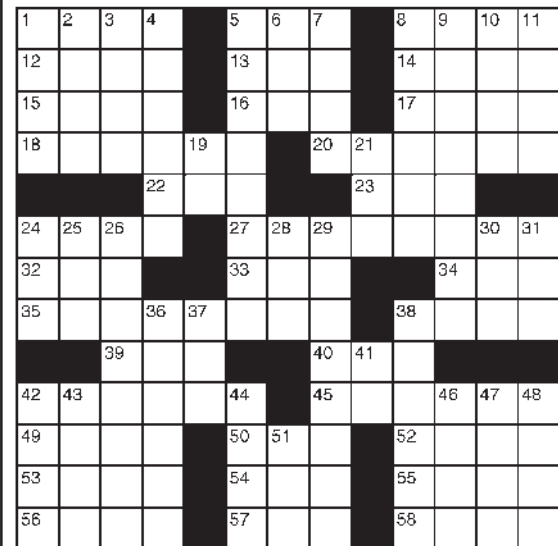
CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Office part-timer
  - 5 Fellow
  - 8 Border on
  - 12 Garfield's pal
  - 13 "Exodus" hero
  - 14 Comic Carvey
  - 15 Lass
  - 16 Cartoon frame
  - 17 Battery fluid
  - 18 "A Streetcar Named Desire" role
  - 20 Ice-skating figures
  - 22 Hearing thing
  - 23 Never, in Nuremberg
  - 24 Beer ingredient
  - 27 Risque
  - 32 Swelled head
  - 33 Scot's denial
  - 34 Spanish gold
- DOWN**
- 35 Bracco of "The Sopranos"
  - 38 Thin nail
  - 39 N.J. neighbor
  - 40 Actress Joanne
  - 42 Red-ink amounts
  - 45 Lament
  - 49 Tennis great
  - 50 Ms. Thurman
  - 52 Actor O'Shea
  - 53 Voucher
  - 54 Buddy
  - 55 Grade sch.
  - 56 Blathers
  - 57 Sturdy tree
  - 58 Salon jobs
  - 59 Raiments
  - 60 Redact
  - 61 Swampy terrain
  - 62 Bit of buckshot
  - 63 Popular pasta
  - 64 Exist
  - 65 Cleopatra's river
  - 66 Slowly, in
  - 67 Single guy
  - 68 Military group
  - 69 Tiny amounts
  - 70 Scale member
  - 71 Business mag
  - 72 Actor Gibson
  - 73 Previously
  - 74 British peer's title
  - 75 Enthusiast
  - 76 Evaluative
  - 77 response
  - 78 Mouths (Lat.)
  - 79 Scepter
  - 80 Puts back to zero
  - 81 Pub order
  - 82 With "out," depressed
  - 83 Concerning
  - 84 Like some lingerie
  - 85 Job-safety org.
  - 86 Wrestling style
  - 87 Unctuous
  - 88 Sheltered
  - 89 Aliases
  - 90 Goat's cry

Solution time: 22 mins.



Yesterday's answer 12-20



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Jonah Hill, 35; David Cook, 36; Nicole de Boer, 48; Joel Gretsch, 55.

**Happy Birthday:** Get everything in order. You'll accomplish far more if you are on top of matters that have the potential to hold you back. Embrace change that will improve your standard of living or encourage you to take better care of yourself. Put emotional energy into what's important to you and into helping loved ones. Don't share personal information or passwords. Your numbers are 2, 10, 16, 20, 28, 31, 44.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19):** Don't spend unnecessarily. Time is money, so take care of business and refrain from getting involved in behavior that may make you look bad or appear to be wasteful or indulgent. A personal change should not be made under emotional conditions. \*\*\*\*

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20):** Share your intentions with someone you love, and you'll bring greater stability into your life moving forward. Plans can be made and a promise put into play. The response you receive will give you better insight into someone you love. \*\*\*

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20):** Don't leave anything to chance or make a promise you can't keep. Keep your words simple and your plans moderate. Emotions will flare up quickly if a lack of honesty or loyalty leads to suspicion. A change will do you good. \*\*\*

**CANCER (June 21-July 22):** Look for changes that are easy for you to make and will thrill someone special. A gift

you make or one that comes from the heart will be treasured by someone you love. Don't reveal a secret someone has entrusted you with. \*\*\*

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22):** Last-minute shopping or getting together for some festive cheer with your colleagues will be engaging, but be careful not to give away secrets that someone expected you to keep to yourself. You'll be surprised by someone's candor. \*\*\*\*

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22):** It is best to address emotional issues head-on before things get blown out of proportion. Honesty will be the best policy when dealing with love-related issues and partnerships. A romantic gesture will help clear the air. \*\*

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22):** Don't give up on someone who is going through a difficult time. Try to understand and offer practical solutions. A gift or unexpected offering will take you by surprise. Be cautious sharing personal information with your peers. \*\*\*

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21):** Get in touch with people you haven't seen for a long time. A kind gesture will make someone's day. Home and personal improvements can be made, and an emotional issue can be cleared up. Romance and socializing should be priorities. \*\*\*

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21):** Show compassion when dealing with others. Your patience will make a difference in the way others respond to you. A surprise should be accepted graciously and shared with those you love. Romance is highlighted. \*\*\*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19):** Your words matter, so choose them wisely. Truth and integrity may not be upheld by everyone you encounter, but that shouldn't tempt you to boast or exaggerate about something that may not come to fruition. \*\*



**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18):** Clear up unfinished business and move on to activities or events that will get you in the spirit of the season. An offer someone makes will be difficult to resist, but first be sure accepting won't upset someone you love. \*\*\*\*



**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20):** Don't overreact, or you will end up in an emotional spat with someone you love. Focus on what you can do to bring you closer to the people you care about most. Travel delays and communication problems can be expected. \*\*

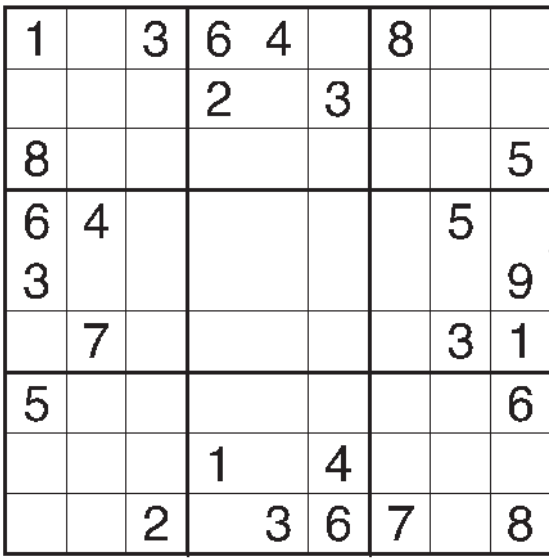
**Birthday Baby:** You are imaginative, constructive and opinionated. You are helpful and gracious.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit [Eugenialast.com](http://Eugenialast.com), or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

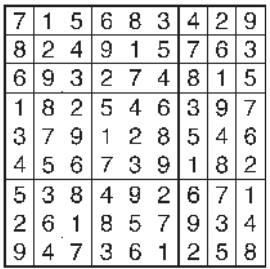


Difficulty Level ★★ ★

12/20

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



WONDERWORD

By DAVID CUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

FAMOUS ASHLEYS

Solution: 7 letters



Argota, Banjo, Bell, Biden, Chin, Cole, Cooper, Fisher, Ford, Gardner, Gnat, Graham, Greene, Harkleroad, Hartman, Hicks, Hood, Jensen, Jones, Judd, Laurence, Leggat, Lella, Loren, MacIsaac, Madekwe, Massaro, Miller, Mulheron, Murray, Name, Noel, Olsen, Oubre, Paris, Peldon, Richardson, Rickards, Ross, Scott, Sexton, Tappin, Tesoro, Wagner, Walters, Wood, Young  
Yesterday's Answer: Browned  
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ATTORNEY FOR Petitioners

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT  
OF THE  
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN  
MARIANA ISLANDS**

In the Matter of the Estate of:  
**CATALINA MUNA BORJA,**  
also known as:  
**CATALINA M. BORJA**  
and formerly known as:  
**CATALINA T. MUNA,**

**CIVIL ACTION  
NO. 18-0484**

Deceased,

**NOTICE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Ann Catherine Borja-Mullarkey, John Juan Muna Borja, and Angelina Borja Quinata have filed a Petition for Letters Testamentary upon the Estate of Catalina Muna Borja, also known as Catalina M. Borja, and formerly known as Catalina T. Muna, deceased; and that the said Petition will be heard by the Court on Thursday, Jan. 17, 2019, at the hour of 9:00 a.m.

Notice is also given to all heirs of and persons having claims against the Estate of Catalina Muna Borja, deceased, and to all persons claiming an interest said Estate, that they shall file such claims with the Clerk of this Court within sixty (60) days from the date of the first publication of this Notice. Copies of such claims should be provided to Michael A. White, Esq., The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, P.O. Box 5222 CHRB, Saipan, MP 96950, Attorney for Petitioners. All claims not so filed shall be forever barred.

DATED: Dec.17,2018

/s/ Judge

WHATZIT Solution: It's an end in itself

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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

**its end elf**

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# Day eyes return to No. 1, even if it costs him sleep



**NEW YORK**

(AP)—Jason Day wants to get back to No. 1 in the world, and he's willing to lose sleep over it.

"There has to be some kind of sacrifice," Day said in the Bahamas before shutting it down for the year. "I was reading the Kobe Bryant book, and he knew there was something he had to sacrifice, so he sacrificed sleep. Because he couldn't sacrifice family, he couldn't sacrifice competing, and not working.

"What can I sacrifice?" he added with a smile. "Sleep."

Day knows the cost of being the best golfer on the planet because he already reached that summit.

He first reached No. 1 in the fall of 2015 after winning five times that year, including his first major at the PGA Championship. The following spring, he won three more tournaments in a span of six starts, capped by a wire-to-wire victory in The Players Championship that gave him the highest points average in the world ranking since Tiger Woods. He stayed No. 1 for 47 weeks and looked to be the dominant player he always wanted to be.

Getting back might be even tougher.

The 31-year-old Australian thought he was on the right track when he started the year by winning in a playoff at Torrey Pines, his first victory in more than 18 months. He talked that day about how his victory at Torrey in 2015 propelled him to his best season.

"I'm hoping to do much of the same this year," Day said.

He won again in early May,



AP  
Jason Day of Australia hits out of a bunker on the sixth hole during a practice round for the PGA Championship golf tournament at Bellerive Country Club, Wednesday, Aug. 8, 2018, in St. Louis.

hitting a towering 7-iron that bounced off the pin on the treacherous par-3 17th at Quail Hollow that sent him to a two-shot victory in the Wells Fargo Championship.

The end of the year brought a sobering reality: Day started at No. 13 in the world, won twice, and finished at No. 14.

"I wasn't as consistent as I should have been," Day said. "If you have a couple of wins, finish with around 10 to 12 top 10s, typically you're in the top-five region. That's why I was disappointed about this year, even though I had two wins."

There's one other part of the equation.

Along with adding two PGA Tour victories, he and wife Ellie added a third child. A son, Arrow, was born in November.

Dash was 3 when he ran onto the green at Whistling Straits in 2015 after his father won the PGA Championship, and Ellie was six months pregnant with Lucy. The family is growing and Day invariably has felt a tug.

He has talked about his constant battle with desire and motivation, and now there is another challenge.

"It takes desire, but it takes balance in life," Day said. "Right now, I'm at a different stage in my life just having my third child. It's hard. Tiger made it look so easy over the years. Being No. 1 for 13 years is very impressive, but to be able to be a dominant player, that's the biggest thing. I wanted to be one of those guys."

Winning takes care of ev-

erything. Woods used to talk about that when he was getting back to No. 1 after a 2½-year absence.

Day won twice and dropped a spot in the ranking.

Part of that is a testament to the depth on the PGA Tour, and how hard it is to win.

Bryson DeChambeau went from No. 99 to No. 5 on the strength of four wins. Woods started at No. 656 and winds up at No. 13. In those cases, they were low enough to make up ground in a hurry. For players just outside the top 10, making up ground requires winning and having a steady diet of chances. Day had only the two wins. He never reached the 18th hole with an opportunity to win at any other tournament.

What bothered him more was his performance in the majors. His best finish in the last two years was a tie for ninth in the 2017 PGA Championship.

"When you don't play well in the majors, when you don't finish well in the FedEx Cup, that's disappointing to me," he said. "I always gear myself around playing well in the majors, and the last couple of years have been pretty hard."

He starts up again in two weeks at Kapalua for the Sentry Tournament of Champions, which he missed last year. He wants to start well again and make up ground. The big test will be contending in a major for the first time since his runner-up finish in the 2016 PGA Championship at Baltusrol.

More than anything, he wants to see if he can dedicate himself to a big year on the course and at home.

"You have to learn balance," he said. "If you want to get to No. 1 in the world, you have to be super selfish. When that happens, you're sacrificing family, you're sacrificing friends, you're sacrificing everything else other than golf."

He chuckled and said, "I wouldn't mind seeing the divorce rate on No. 1 players in the world."

Day has known only one way to play his best golf—with a relentless, methodical work ethic. Now he wants to find his path with a wife and three kids along for the ride.

Even if that means giving up a few hours of sleep.

**LONDON** (AP)—Wanted: A coach to restore Manchester United to its former status as a major force in European soccer.

It was a task that proved beyond even Jose Mourinho.

United brought an end to Mourinho's turbulent 2½-year spell at the storied English club by firing him on Tuesday, an inevitable move that follows a pattern of bitter endings at the Portuguese coach's recent teams.

"Be careful," Mourinho said to reporters and photographers through the open window of a car that whisked him away from the city-center hotel where he lived throughout his time at United.

Indeed, these are worrying times for both United, which is arguably at its lowest point since the departure of long-time manager Alex Ferguson in 2013, and Mourinho, whose illustrious coaching career is at a crossroads as critics question if his abrasive approach, on and off the field, still suits

## Mourinho fired by Man United with career at crossroads

modern-day soccer.

United said it will not hire a permanent replacement for Mourinho until the offseason. The club will appoint a caretaker manager for the remainder of the season in the coming days.

The end for Mourinho at English soccer's most prestigious club came two days after a 3-1 loss at fierce rival Liverpool, the latest reminder of just how far United has slumped behind the top teams in the Premier League and Europe.

It was a result that left United sixth in the Premier League, 19 points off the lead after 17 games and, perhaps more significantly, 11 points off the top four in the race to secure Champions League qualification for next season. It is United's worst 17-game start to a league campaign since the 1990-91 season.

"The club would like to thank Jose for his work during his time at Manchester United

and to wish him success in the future," United said in a three-line statement released after Mourinho was told of his fate in a face-to-face meeting with executive vice chairman Ed Woodward.

United won two titles in Mourinho's first season—the English League Cup and the Europa League—but failed to capture a trophy in his second season, although runner-up spot in the league was its highest finish since Ferguson left.

Mourinho has historically encountered problems in his third season in charge at clubs he has managed, and it was no different at United.

His relationship with Paul Pogba, United's record signing at \$116 million and the marquee arrival in Mourinho's reign, appeared broken following a spat that started in the offseason.

Pogba, who hasn't started

for United in its last three games, wrote on Instagram "Caption this!" alongside a picture of him smirking in a post published soon after the announcement of Mourinho's departure. It was quickly deleted.

Mourinho has also publicly criticized other players, including Luke Shaw and Anthony Martial, during his reign. By the end, it felt as if Mourinho was unloved and increasingly alienated.

Tellingly, the only public message from a United player in the hours following Mourinho's departure was that post by Pogba.

Mourinho, who oversaw the outlay of \$470 million on players while at United, also appeared to have a fractious relationship with Woodward especially since the club's board failed to back his wish to sign a central defender in the offseason. United has al-

ready conceded more goals in the league (29) than it did in all of last season.

Then there was United's pragmatic and often-ponderous style of play under Mourinho that always seemed at odds with the team's preference down the years for free-flowing, attacking play. Mourinho's approach and tactics appear out of date and have been bypassed by younger, more forward-thinking managers.

After Sunday's loss at Anfield, Mourinho said his players were brittle and couldn't cope with the intensity and physicality of Liverpool—historically United's biggest rival. United also lost 3-1 to neighbor Manchester City in the league in recent weeks in another display that highlighted the team's demise.

A serial winner of trophies throughout his coaching career—his title haul currently stands at 25—Mourinho ar-

rived at Old Trafford in 2016 as a supposed quick fix for United following its struggles after the retirement of Ferguson three years earlier. David Moyes, Ferguson's hand-picked successor, and Louis van Gaal departed after 10 months and two years, respectively.

Mourinho lasted only marginally longer. He was at United the same length of time as he was in his previous job at Chelsea, when he was also fired just before Christmas in 2015 in his third season after accusing his players of "betraying" him.

In his six major coaching stints—at Porto, Chelsea, Inter Milan, Real Madrid, Chelsea again and United—Mourinho has only lasted more than three years once. That was in his first spell at Chelsea.

Having signed a new contract with United in January until June 2020, the Portuguese coach will reportedly receive compensation of 24 million pounds (\$30 million).





# Saints back on top of poll; Chargers climb to No. 2



**NEW YORK**  
(AP) — Drew Brees and the New Orleans Saints are feeling quite at home on top of the NFL.

The Saints enter the final two weeks of the regular season with the best record in the league at 12-2. They finish the regular season with two games in the Superdome and are a win away from clinching home-field advantage throughout the NFC playoffs.

And the Saints are back on top of the latest AP Pro32 poll.

The Saints received 11 of the 12 first-place votes for 382 points in balloting Tuesday by media members who regularly cover the NFL.

The Saints moved up a spot a day after holding off Carolina 12-9 on Monday night.

“On a night when Drew Brees didn’t have his magic touch, it was a rapidly improving defense that carried the Saints to a huge win over Carolina that keeps them in the lead for all-important home-field advantage in the

AP  
New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees (9) dives over the line against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers to score on a 1-yard touchdown run during the second half of an NFL football game Sunday, Dec. 9, 2018, in Tampa, Fla.



## Colts' late-season charge creates playoff stir

**INDIANAPOLIS** (AP)— Suddenly, the Indianapolis Colts are creating a buzz around town.

They ran the ball effectively Sunday against one of the league’s top defenses, stymied two of the league’s premier receivers in back-to-back weeks and ended Houston’s nine-game win streak and Dallas’ five-game win streak.

Earning victories in their last two games could send the Colts back to the playoffs for the first time in four years and they could be a difficult matchup in the postseason, if they make it.

“I can absolutely feel a significant difference in the last few weeks compared to the beginning of the year,” coach Frank Reich said when asked about the atmosphere around town.

“Not that I get out very much because I don’t, but the little bit I do, the Starbucks in the morning or wherever it may be on a Friday night for dinner with my wife. You can feel the excitement by the fans and it’s exciting for all of us here in the building. It’s fun to see.”

It’s been a long time coming for a team that seemed like an annual postseason lock for a 15-year span starting in 1999.

When the Colts went 8-8 and missed the playoffs in 2015, fans largely considered it an aberration because Andrew Luck missed nine games with injuries.

Luck returned in 2016, but when the Colts again finished 8-8 and missed out, the debate

changed. Many wondered if the team needed a fresh start and team owner Jim Irsay responded by firing general manager Ryan Grigson.

Then with Luck missing all of last season to recuperate from surgery on his throwing shoulder, the Colts staggered to a 4-12 mark, missed the playoffs for the third straight year and coach Chuck Pagano was fired.

Many outsiders figured the Colts needed a major overhaul, a perception that was reinforced by Josh McDaniels’ decision to back out of a deal to become Indy’s new head coach shortly after New England’s Super Bowl loss, Luck’s lingering rehab and Indy’s 1-5 start this season.

But general manager Chris Ballard and Reich, Indy’s second choice as coach, have put together a winning combination by staying the course.

The balanced offense Grigson and Pagano craved for so long finally materialized after Indy (8-6) found two key solutions to its offensive line woes in the draft — left guard Quenton Nelson and right tackle Braden Smith. Luck benefited by turning in the best season of his career and the Colts have overcome injuries to win seven of their past eight.

“A good leader will get guys to do what he wants them to do and believe in themselves whether you’re 1-5 or 7-1 through the last eight games,” offensive coordinator Nick Sirianni said Tuesday.

NFC playoffs,” said Newsday’s Bob Glauber.

The next two positions belong to the AFC West. The Los Angeles Chargers received the other first-place vote and jumped two spots to No. 2 following their thrilling 29-28 win over the Kansas Chiefs on Thursday night. Philip Rivers threw for 313 yards and two touchdowns, including a winning 2-point conversion in the final seconds.

“Nobody is having more fun playing football than 37-year-old Philip Rivers, who has inserted himself squarely in the MVP conversation,” said Ira Kaufman of Fox 13 in Tampa, Florida.

**WISCONSIN**—The Green Bay Packers were one of seven teams mathematically eliminated from the postseason on Sunday, after their loss to the Chicago Bears and a few other results.

Even though there’s nothing much for him to play for, even though he’s been dealing with at least two injuries, even though Green Bay just committed to making him the richest player in NFL history, Aaron Rodgers won’t be sitting for the Packers’ final two games.

Interim head coach Joe Philbin essentially told reporters on Tuesday that Rodgers is an NFL player, and NFL players are paid to play.

That’s a quaint notion, but Rodgers isn’t some bottom-of-the-roster guy trying to prove he deserves a shot to stick around next season.

“In the general sense, my philosophy is football play-

The Chiefs fell two places to No. 3.

The NFC North champion Chicago Bears gained two spots to No. 4 after they earned their first playoff appearance in eight years with a win over Green Bay.

“The Chargers and Bears are playing better than any of the other contenders at the moment,” said Charean Williams of Pro Football Talk.

The Los Angeles Rams dropped two spots to No. 5 after losing to the Philadelphia Eagles on Sunday night.

The Houston Texans gained a place to No. 6 after rallying past the New York Jets. The Texans (10-4) are the No. 2

seed in the AFC and are at the Eagles on Sunday as they try to avoid playing on wild-card weekend next month.

The New England Patriots and Pittsburgh Steelers followed in the poll. The Patriots fell two spots to No. 7 after losing 17-10 on Sunday at Pittsburgh, which moved up two spots to No. 8.

“Finally beat (Tom) Brady,” Fox Sports’ John Czarnecki said of the Steelers earning their first victory over the Patriots since 2011.

New England is the No. 3 seed in the AFC, but closes with home games against Buffalo and the Jets.

“Without a first-round bye,

Patriots won’t be reaching a third straight Super Bowl,” said Alex Marvez of SiriusXM.

Pittsburgh has a half-game lead over Baltimore in the AFC North, but faces a challenge as the Steelers meet the Saints on Sunday.

The Indianapolis Colts, in the hunt for a wild-card spot in the AFC, also gained two places to No. 9.

And the Seattle Seahawks rounded out the top 10 as they fell two spots after their overtime loss at San Francisco. The Seahawks host the Chiefs on Sunday night as they look to close in on a playoff spot.

## Packers done, but injured Rodgers will still play

ers are paid to play football games, and football coaches are paid to coach football games, so obviously we have to go through the week and we would never put any player out there that wasn’t physically ready to go,” Philbin said. “But that’s my general philosophy and overall philosophy whether it’s Aaron Rodgers or anybody else.”

“We’re the Green Bay Packers, we’re a football team and we’re in the business of winning football games, and we want all our players who are healthy to contribute to the overall success of the team. Period.”

Rodgers has been dealing with a knee injury since Week 1, the Packers’ first game with the Bears, and said on Sunday he injured his groin on the final play of the first half and that “it bothered me a little bit” in the second.

The 35-year-old said he

wants to play in the final two games, but it would be a surprise if he didn’t say that.

Philbin certainly wants him out there against the New York Jets and Detroit Lions, both of whom are also eliminated, so it’s not like the Packers can play spoiler for either of those teams.

“I think when you sign up for the 2018 NFL season, you sign up for a 16-game season and hopefully you earn the opportunity to extend that and to compete for a championship,” Philbin said. “Obviously the [contract] extension part is over. That being said, you’re a football player, you’re part of a team and your one role is to contribute to the overall success of the team. And the team has an opportunity to win a game Sunday against the New York Jets, and if our players, they should want to participate because they’re good team-

mates and they should.

“I think that’s their obligation to the team. So we’ll see. If there are other discussions contrary to that, we’ll certainly cross that bridge and discuss it. Again, I think it’s bigger than Aaron Rodgers. This is a football team. You’re a football player. You’re employed by the Green Bay Packers just like if players or coaches were to say, ‘Geez I’d like to go home tonight and not prepare as hard for this game because we’re not going to the playoffs,’ I mean, that’s not a professional approach to the job, I don’t think.”

In general, yes, players are paid to play. But Rodgers signed a four year, \$134 million extension, with \$98.2 million guaranteed just a few months ago. Is it worth risking his 2019 availability to play an essentially meaningless game against the Jets?



# Nets hold off Lakers to extend win streak to 6



**NEW YORK** (AP)—LeBron James and the Los Angeles Lakers were rallying, trying to send themselves home on a winning note.

The hottest team in the NBA wouldn't allow it.

The Brooklyn Nets ran their longest winning streak in nearly four years to six games with a 115-110 victory Tuesday night, emphatically stopping James on his first shot and then holding him off down the stretch.

D'Angelo Russell had 22 points and a career high-tying 13 assists against his former team as Brooklyn continued its recovery from an eight-game skid by hanging on in front of a loud, large sellout crowd of 17,732 that alternated cheering when the Lakers seized the momentum and when the Nets regained it.

"It's a great feeling," Russell said. "I personally have never been in that position at this level to win six in a row. Definitely not satisfied."

James bounced back from his lowest-scoring game of the season with 36 points, 13 rebounds and eight assists, but the Lakers finished 1-3 on their road trip. Kyle Kuzma had 22 points and 11 rebounds, while Lonzo Ball scored 23.

"We could've had a pretty good road trip but 1-3 is definitely not the way we would like to have it," James said.

Joe Harris added 19 points and Spencer Dinwiddie scored 18 for the Nets, who last won six in a row from March 25 to April 3, 2015. Rondae Hollis-Jefferson finished with 17 points and Jared Dudley made some big baskets down the stretch to score 13.

"It's amazing, man," Hollis-Jefferson said. "Just to see the hard work we put in, all the resiliency we had, it's amazing to be able to say we put together some wins."

Brooklyn led 100-87 with 7½ minutes to play before back-to-back 3-pointers by Kuzma and Ball. James then scored inside, blocked a shot on the other end and scored again to make it 100-97.

Dudley and Dinwiddie answered with drives, and Dudley hit two more baskets to settle the Nets before Russell's 3-pointer made it 113-107 with 22 seconds remaining.

The Nets had scored 70 points in the first halves of their last two games, and were almost on pace in this one after taking a 33-32 lead after one quarter. They led 62-57 at halftime.

"That's why this team has won six games in a row. They have a lot of different guys



that can hurt you," Lakers coach Luke Walton said.

Brooklyn then used a 12-0 run to take its largest lead at 79-65 on Hollis-Jefferson's three-point play with 7:27 remaining in the third quarter. The Nets led 90-83 going to the fourth.

James was limited to 13 points on 5-of-16 shooting in a loss to Washington on Sunday and things started rough for him in this one, as Jarrett Allen denied his attempt at a dunk with a sensational block.

"He's in his 20s, I'm in my 30s," James said. "Takes me a little longer to get warmed up."

James was called for traveling the next time he had the ball before finding his groove.

## Nuggets 126, Mavericks 118

In Denver, Nikola Jokic had 32 points and 16 rebounds, Jamal Murray dished out a career-high 15 assists and the Nuggets extended their home winning streak to seven games by beat-

ing the Dallas Mavericks.

At 21-9, the Nuggets matched the 1976-77 squad for the best start through 30 games in franchise history. They also remain on top of the Western Conference by percentage points over Golden State. This is rarefied air for the Nuggets: The last time they had played more than 25 games and were alone in first place in the conference was March 1977.

Murray contributed 22 points for the injury-depleted Nuggets, including 10 in the fourth quarter.

Luka Doncic had a big game for Dallas with 23 points and a career-best 12 assists, while Harrison Barnes scored 30. The Mavericks hit 15 3-pointers against the NBA's top long-range defense.

The Nuggets held each opponent under 100 points in their last six wins at the Pepsi Center. But this one turned into a track meet—a throwback to the days of old for Denver.

Still, it was a defensive play that helped save the night for the Nuggets.

Fueled by a 14-0 run at the end of the third, the Nuggets took a 105-95 lead into the final quarter. Dallas trimmed it to four before Monte Morris hit a 3-pointer to give Denver some separation.

Murray then blocked a shot and hit a jumper on the other end to seal the win.

## Hawks 118, Wizards 110

In Atlanta, Jeremy Lin and the Atlanta Hawks expected John Wall's inevitable scoring burst that came in the third quarter.

Lin had an even stronger response in the fourth.

The veteran guard scored 12 of his 16 points in the final period and the Hawks overcame Bradley Beal's 29 points for a victory over the Washington Wizards.

The Hawks outscored the Wizards 71-52 in the first and last quarters combined.

Brooklyn Nets' Jarrett Allen (31) blocks a shot by Los Angeles Lakers' LeBron James (23) during the first half of an NBA basketball game Tuesday, Dec. 18, 2018, in New York. The Nets won, 115-110.

"I thought it was one of our best defensive games," Lin said. "That gives you a chance."

Wall, scoreless as Washington trailed throughout the first half, had 10 points in the third period as the Wizards pulled even at 82 entering the fourth.

Lin's outburst included a dribble fake that sent Thomas Satoransky falling backward, leaving Lin open for a jumper and a 103-93 lead. He added a layup on Atlanta's next possession.

## Cavaliers 92, Pacers 91

In Indianapolis, Larry Nance Jr. put himself in perfect position to make the final play.

After outwrestling Victor Oladipo in front of the basket, the Cleveland Cavaliers center waited patiently as he anticipated Rodney Hood's errant layup then threw up his right hand and barely beat the buzzer.

Nance finished with 15 points, a career-high 16 rebounds, six assists and the first game-winning shot of his pro career to give the Cavaliers a rare road victory. It ended Indiana's seven-game winning streak.

"I told Hood to put the ball up on the rim with a couple seconds left so I can see if I could do something with it," Nance said. "He made a good move and did exactly that."

## Dolan reportedly open to selling Knicks

**NEW YORK**—James Dolan has gotten "feelers" from potential bidders interested in purchasing the Knicks that have gone up to \$5 billion, and while he doesn't want to sell, he didn't rule out that it could happen.

Dolan, the chairman and CEO of the Madison Square Garden company, recently began the process of spinning off the company's sports teams from its entertainment entities, sparking the idea that he was interested in selling the Knicks.

But there have been no "bonafide" offers and Dolan said that no one in his family is looking to sell.

Still, he left open the chance that he would unload the Knicks for business reasons.

"I love the Knicks and Rangers, right, but you still have a responsibility to your shareholders," Dolan said in the interview. "They're not there because they're fans. You don't invest hundreds of millions of dollars in a stock because you're a fan. You do it because you think that the business is going to increase in value, that the stock price is going to go up. You have a responsibility as the guy who runs the place to deliver on that for them, that's being open and transparent. And so in that position, I could never say that I wouldn't consider selling the Knicks."

In an attempt to quell the speculation his comments in the interview created, Dolan released a statement Monday afternoon.

"As we have previously stated, there are no plans to sell the Knicks," Dolan said in the statement.

Dolan has had a rocky tenure since taking over the

Knicks in 1999. It has included front office upheaval, ongoing coaching changes, organizational chaos and plenty of losing. There was also the 2007 sexual harassment lawsuit filed by former employee Anucha Browne Sanders, which the Knicks lost.

Still, Dolan said the Knicks and Rangers are good assets and he and his family like owning them.

That doesn't mean, though, he wouldn't consider selling if the situation called for it.

"As a majority owner, I don't want to sell, either," Dolan said. "As the head of the public company, you can't say you can't sell, because then you're telling your shareholders that your own personal feelings about your assets are more important than their money. And they won't invest with you if you do that."

Meanwhile, in Phoenix, the Suns have waived guard Austin Rivers, a day after he was obtained in a trade with the Washington Wizards.

In a deal finalized over the weekend and announced Monday, the Suns acquired Rivers and Kelly Oubre from the Wizards in exchange for Trevor Ariza.

If he clears waivers, Rivers becomes an unrestricted free agent.

Rivers appeared in 29 games for Washington, averaging 7.2 points per game while shooting 39 percent from the field. He averaged 15.1 points per game last season for the Los Angeles Clippers.

Rivers, the 10th overall pick in the draft by New Orleans in 2012, is the son of Clippers coach Doc Rivers.



# Beltran joining Yanks on eve of Machado meeting



**N E W YORK**—A year after interviewing for the Yankees then-vacant managing position, Carlos Beltran is re-joining the Yankees as a special advisor to general manager Brian Cashman.

Last February, two months after Aaron Boone was hired as manager, Beltran said he turned down the Yankees' offer to be a front office special assistant.

Beltran's new post was first reported on Tuesday by MLB.com, noting that his hire coincides with the Yankees' scheduled Wednesday meeting with superstar free agent Manny Machado.

Machado is represented by Dan Lozano, who also served as Beltran's agent.

And the Yankees have questions for Machado, over his comments in *The Athletic* about his selective hustle and about his on-field conduct, which came into sharper focus during the 2018 postseason with the Dodgers.

There's also the Yankees'

reluctance to make a \$300 million commitment to Machado, who met with the White Sox on Monday and is reportedly set to visit the Phillies on Thursday.

Still, the Yankees haven't hid their interest in Machado, 26, who could fill the current vacancy at shortstop and slide over to third base when Didi Gregorius recovers from Tommy John surgery.

That would directly impact AL Rookie of the Year runner-up Miguel Andujar, forcing either a position change or a change of address in an impact trade.

Beltran, 41, played with the Yankees from 2014-2016, and was traded to the Rangers during the club's pivot as sellers.

In 2017, his final year as an active player, Beltran joined the Astros and was part of his first world championship team. Beltran has maintained a residence in New York since his playing days.

Though Beltran said last February that he couldn't pass up the chance to interview for



In this file photo, the New York Yankees' Carlos Beltran rounds the bases after hitting a two-run home run off Seattle Mariners starting pitcher Ariel Miranda.

the Yankees' last managing vacancy, he rejected the offer of a front office post - citing the opportunity to have a year of rest and reflection.

In communicating with Cashman then, "they offered me a job to be with them and actually offered me a job to be next to him," Beltran said last February. "I do appreciate the consideration and how flexible they were to work with me."

But after the managing job went to Boone, "I decided to go back to my initial plans of being retired for a year," Beltran said. "I wasn't really planning on being retired and jumping right back in the game right away."

Now, he's jumping back in—on the eve of a high-level meeting with Machado.

## Mets GM: We're the favorites

**NEW YORK**—Before he even made his first move as Mets general manager, Brodie Van Wagenen let it be known he does not fear the rest of the NL East.

"Who in the National League East is going to beat us, and why?" Van Wagenen asked WFAN host Mike Francesa in October.

Roughly six weeks and three significant transactions later, Van Wagenen believes he's assembled the best team in the division.

"Internally we would argue that we're the favorites in the division right now," Van Wagenen told SNY on Tuesday at Citi Field.

Van Wagenen has been higher than most on this Mets roster since he became the Mets' top executive, and his confidence is sky high now that the team has added four significant pieces. His latest addition, catcher Wilson Ramos, provides much-needed right-handed power while upgrading one of the team's biggest weaknesses.

Ramos, who was introduced Tuesday, signed a two-year deal worth \$19 million that includes

an option that could push the deal to \$27.5 million.

"He's a veteran catcher who can control the running game and command the respect of a pitching staff," Van Wagenen said of Ramos. "He talked to us about his desire to help young pitchers reach their peak potential. We have some pitchers that will really benefit from his presence. In short, Wilson was the perfect fit for us."

The two sides met during the winter meetings, and the Mets opted for Ramos rather than trade a young, controllable player and top prospects for JT Realmuto.

"We felt like we could get the offense from Wilson Ramos and get a veteran presence for a pitching staff that made it much smarter and fit into our plans much better," Van Wagenen said about the team's decision to sign Ramos rather than trade for Realmuto. "While (also) creating the flexibility to add to it, that made the most sense to us."

Cano, Diaz, Familia and Ramos make the Mets a more formidable club, but the team still has holes to fill with only a limited budget.

While Van Wagenen said the Mets have the flexibility to add to the payroll, he indicated the Mets are not going to sign free agent outfielder AJ Pollock. The indications are the team will instead use the money to sign complementary pieces.

### Harvey, Angels agree to \$11M, 1-year deal

Matt Harvey has agreed to an \$11 million, one-year contract with the Los Angeles Angels, returning to the team that drafted him out of high school but failed to sign the pitcher.

Harvey's deal was disclosed by a person familiar with the negotiations who spoke Tuesday to *The Associated Press* on condition of anonymity because the agreement had not yet been announced.

Harvey can earn an additional \$3 million in performance bonuses: \$250,000 for each start from 15 through 26 the person said. The person spoke Tuesday on condition of anonymity because the agreement had not yet been announced.

His agreement, first re-

ported by MLB.com and Fancred, nearly doubles Harvey's salary from \$5,625,000 this year.

Harvey joins a rotation projected to include Andrew Heaney, Tyler Skaggs and Nick Tropeano. Shohei Ohtani likely won't pitch at all next year following Tommy John surgery on Oct. 1, and JC Ramirez's return date to the major leagues is not certain as he recovers from the elbow ligament replacement procedure last April 17.

Harvey reached the heights of celebrity with the Mets, but his star plummeted due to injuries and off-the-field distractions and he was jettisoned by New York last spring to Cincinnati.

"I want people to know I do regret a lot of mistakes I made," he said when he returned to Citi Field in August. "Obviously, I never wished it ended like that."

A right-hander who turns 30 in March, Harvey was selected by the Angels in the third round of the 2007 amateur draft but chose to attend the University of North Carolina. The Mets drafted him in the first round three years later with the seventh overall pick.

## Carol eyes high-level tourney in Australia

By **ROSELYN B. MONROYO**  
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REPORTER

The CNMI's Carol Lee is looking to kick off 2019 on a high gear, as she aims to compete in the 2019 AGL Loy Yang Traralgon Junior International in Australia.



if she moves out of the alternate roster. Draws for both singles and doubles events (qualifier) will be decided before the Jan. 9 games.

Lee played in the same tournament in January this year and bowed to Japan's Ayumi Miyamoto, 3-5, 1-6, in the first round of the qualifying draw. If she makes it to the qualifier again, the CNMI netter will also try to compete in the 2018 Australian Open Juniors Championship that will take place from Jan. 19 to 26 in Melbourne. Then after the two events in the Land Down Under, Lee will head to of the Daulet National Tennis Centre in Astana, Kazakhstan to suit up for Pacific Oceania Team in the Fed Cup Asia/Oceania Zone.

## NMSA

From Page 28

funding will help them secure sturdier facilities.

While waiting for FEMA, Rogolifoi and his five staff members continue to clean the sports complex that will serve as the main hub of the 2021 Pacific Games. Yesterday, Rogolifoi and company removed the flooring of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. Long before Super Typhoon Yutu hit the island, bubbles from several vinyl flooring had already been forming and some were peeled off. Frequent raining this week and the leaking roof

left the flooring covered with water, so NMSA staff members and Rogolifoi decided to clear them.

"We will continue to clean the sports complex as we wait for FEMA's help. It will be a while before we could get things going here, but I hope by middle of next year we could have some of the facilities back. Also, we need to speed up the repair work because of the 2021 Pacific Games," Rogolifoi said.

Although Saipan is a little over two years away from hosting the Pacific Games, the facilities need to be in shape for a series of assessment from the Pacific Games Council.

## LADY

From Page 28

should be the one encouraging the team and giving them tips."

After dropping the first set, Eagles coach Cesar Libut urged their players to put more effort on communicating with each other and up the ante on the defensive end. The Lady Eagles did what they were instructed to and effectively countered Mt. Carmel's first set win to extend the game. GCA's Anna Nunez and Karina Dilse fired off several serves that found their marks and their much-improved communication and defensive

efforts were noticeable during the second-set recovery. Joyce Francisco, who took majority of Phan's usual share of minutes, also stepped up on the defensive end to push her team over the hump.

With the game in the balance, the Lady Eagles glided the wave of momentum from their second set victory into the final frame, reaching the 8-4 tally with relative ease.

However, MCS coach Shawn Davis rallied the Lady Knights together and encouraged them to remain faithful to three fundamental volleyball concepts.

"I remember our coach saying these three things: relax

and take a deep breath, communicate, and make good passes," MCS captain Louisa Han said. "She kept us in a positive mindset."

The Lady Knights heeded to their coach's advice and eventually overtook the Eagles to head into the holiday break in high spirits.

As for the Lady Eagles, they are going into the holiday break with an extra motivation after absorbing the tough loss.

"We feel like having this break will be a good chance for us to improve and correct whatever mistakes we made during the Mt. Carmel game," Woo said.

Meanwhile, the other matches in the girls division last Tues-

day were rescheduled due to miscommunication. Initially, Saipan International School 2 was set to host Mt. Carmel JV team, while SIS 1 was slated to meet Agape Christian School, also at the Lady Geckos court in As Lito. However, at the time when league officials created the schedule, they were not aware of SIS' early holiday break.

Matches in the high school league will resume on Jan. 14 with Agape Christian School hosting GCA girls and boys teams and MCS varsity and junior varsity teams squaring off at their Chalan Kanoa court. An all-SIS affair (1 and 2 girls division) will also take place at the resumption of the league.



Nets hold  
off Lakers to  
extend win  
streak to 6

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# Saipan Tribune Sports



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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## ON FEMA AID FOR SPORTS COMPLEX REPAIR

# NMSA hopes for speedy process



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The damage roof at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium is waiting for repairs since 2015 when Typhoon Soudelor hit Saipan.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
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REPORTER



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Northern Mariana Sports Association staff members Jovie Omar, left, and Elias Rangamar pile up the vinyl tiles they removed from the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium's flooring yesterday.

Northern Mariana Sports Association executive director Tony Rogolifoi is hoping that the process of obtaining financial assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency for the repair work at the Oleai Sports Complex could be fast-tracked.

"A FEMA inspector assessed the sports complex last Monday and we're looking

forward to getting a feedback from the agency next week," Rogolifoi said in an inter-

view with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

"I hope this time, the process (of getting aid from FEMA to repair the facility) will be faster than what we ex-

perienced during Typhoon Soudelor, as there are lot of things that need to be fixed here because of the extent of the damage caused by

Super Typhoon Yutu," the NMSA official added. The category 5 typhoon that hammered Saipan and Tinian late October left



the fence of the sports complex shattered, ripped off the already leaking roof, crushed windows, broke poles, lights, pitching cage, and bleachers at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios and Miguel "Tan Ge" Basa Pangelinan ballfields, and damaged the track oval.

Super Typhoon Yutu's destruction came when NMSA was just waiting for some documents to push forward with the repair work at the sports complex, which more than three years ago also took a hit from Typhoon Soudelor. Two years after Typhoon Soudelor slammed Saipan (Aug. 2, 2015), Gov. Ralph DLG Torres announced that \$505,220 in public assistance funds had been approved by FEMA to help with the renovation and other repairs at the Oleai facility.

The little over half-a-million dollar allocation is still available and Rogolifoi believes NMSA will get more because of the massive damage the sports complex sustained from Super Typhoon Yutu. The NMSA official added that the increased

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By ROBY N. PAMINTUAN  
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Mt. Carmel School's high school girls varsity team stormed Grace Christian Academy's home turf and topped the back-and-forth game in the 2018-2019 Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools Association High School Volleyball League last Tuesday.

The Lady Knights went the distance against GCA and outlasted their opponents in three sets, as the former played steadier in the homestretch, 25-19, 18-25, 15-12. Facing a 4-8 deficit in the deciding third set and getting rattled by GCA's comeback bid, Mt. Carmel managed to settle down later and launched its own rally to grab the lead and steal the close win.

Earlier in the opening set, the Lady Knights were firmly in control, capitalizing on

a depleted GCA crew. The Lady Eagles were without Jasmine Phan and starting setter Clerisse Dacumos and they faltered with their communication, as they clearly missed their key players. With a short-handed lineup, GCA also could not withstand Mt. Carmel's dynamic offensive plays in the first set. Teeon Camacho and Cheska Bucalig made key plays on both ends of the floor to clip the Lady Eagles in the first set.

"We didn't communicate well during the first set, and we knew we had to improve on that," Sunny Woo said. With Phan, GCA's captain and starting spiker, away for a vacation, Woo did her best to fill in the latter's shoes. "Since [Phan] wasn't here, and I'm the oldest player on the team, I thought that I

**See LADY on Page 27**

## Lady Knights ground Lady Eagles



ROBY N. PAMINTUAN

A Mt. Carmel School player goes for a spike during an earlier game against Saipan International School 2 in the CCOPSA high school volleyball league at the SIS court in As Lito. MCS faced GCA last Tuesday and won in three sets,